

other Red Sea ports before returning to the Gulf of Aqaba and being allowed to dock at

Bosnian Serbs batter Muslims as NATO debates strategy

BELGRADE (R) — Bosnian Serb rebels unleashed an artillery barrage Tuesday against a Muslim city packed with civilians, as European states in NATO offered warplanes to help protect "safe areas."

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic meanwhile assured Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin that Belgrade has curtailed military supplies to the rebels to pressure them to accept an international peace plan.

U.N. officials said Serb forces launched a shelling offensive against Maglaj in north Bosnia, threatening tens of thousands of trapped civilians.

The attack coincided with a meeting in Brussels of NATO defence ministers on a new Western policy to contain the conflict in Bosnia.

They met to discuss how to protect Muslim enclaves designated as "safe areas" with troops and air power and heard offers of warplanes from some European member states.

Muslim-controlled Bosnian radio said the shelling of Maglaj continued Tuesday for the tenth

straight day and said Serb artillery attacked the nearby Brcko area.

Bosnian Serbs countered that the Serb villages of Gornja Paklenica, Jabucic Polje and Strijezevac near Maglaj were attacked by Muslim artillery, the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats fought each other in the south Bosnia city of Mostar overnight after a week-old joint command fell apart over the issue of control of civilian police, Croatian radio reported Tuesday morning.

Small arms fire and occasional detonations were heard at dawn after Muslim forces launched abortive infantry attacks to break Croatian defence lines, it said.

A U.N. Protection Force spokesman in Sarajevo said Tuesday that central Bosnia, recently the site of fierce Croat-Muslim fighting was quiet but tense with three mortars falling near Kiseljak and sniping in Vitez.

But Bosnian radio reported Croat artillery and infantry "provocations" overnight near Jablanica.

Moscow's envoy Mr. Churkin told reporters after meeting Mr. Milosevic in Belgrade: "Milosevic has assured me that the decision (to seal the borders) has been observed," he added: "There were a couple of doubtful cases, but they were explained to me."

Mr. Milosevic, previously seen in the West as a key backer of the Bosnian Serbs, made an about-turn last month as U.N. sanctions started to bite and threw his weight behind a peace plan drawn up by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

He promised to cut off military support to Bosnian Serbs and seal off borders except for humanitarian aid.

Mr. Churkin and Mr. Milosevic discussed how to "generate new momentum and bring about a settlement in Bosnia," as Bosnia rivals fought battles across the beleaguered republic.

Fighting picked up again between Muslims and Croats in Mostar and the Bosnian Serbs' pounding of Maglaj prompted fear by U.N. aid workers that another refugee catastrophe was

in the making.

Mr. Churkin, who arrived in Belgrade Monday, failed to sway Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to allow U.N. observers on their frontier as urged in the current international strategy to end the civil war.

The United States, Russia and key European allies agreed Saturday on a process that would include possible use of U.S. air power to protect Muslim safe havens in Bosnia.

Observers on the Bosnian border would ensure Yugoslavia, or Serbia, did not ship weapons to Serbs in Bosnia.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government has rejected the allied strategy as "totally unacceptable," and called on the U.N. Security Council to implement instead the nine-month-old Vance-Owen peace plan.

The plan would create 10 Bosnian provinces roughly along ethnic lines and a central government in which the three ethnic groups would share power. The Muslims and Croats accepted this plan, but Serbs rejected it.



The bodies of two victims lie in the parking lot of the Guadalajara Airport after they were killed during a shootout between drug traffickers. Seven people were killed including Guadalajara's Cardinal.

al Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo and his driver, when their car apparently got caught in the crossfire (AFP photo)

Mexican cardinal killed in gun battle

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — The Roman Catholic cardinal of Guadalajara and six other people were killed by gunfire when suspected drug traffickers battled each other at the Mexican city's airport, officials said.

Cardinal Juan Posadas Ocampo and other victims were caught in what witnesses said was a hail of bullets from AK-47 rifles and other weapons fired by up to two dozen people.

Jalisco state spokesman Armando Morquecho told Reuters that "the strongest belief" was that the fighting was between rival drug traffickers.

"It was a very fierce fight. It looked like one group was waiting for the other," one person told reporters here.

Details of the incident remained unclear, but at a news conference, Jalisco Governor Carlos Rivera Aceves said that two suspects were in custody and others were being sought.

Officials initially said six people died but later raised the death toll to seven.

The firefight began in the airport terminal and spilled out into the parking lot, where Cardinal Posadas and his driver died in their car, officials said.

Some reports said Cardinal Posadas was at the airport to meet a papal representative. Others, however, said he was catching a flight to Mexico City.

According to a government statement, 20 cars were struck by bullets and in several of them police found AK-47s, rifles, hand grenades and ammunition clips.

Television reports showed hundreds of people running out of the airport terminal and dozens of police officers and possibly civilians armed and running for cover.

The airport was shut down for three hours after the shootout. The death of the 66-year-old Cardinal Posadas — one of only two cardinals in this heavily Catholic country of 85 million people — provoked an outcry from government and church officials against violence.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari travelled to Guadalajara

Monday night to attend services for Cardinal Posadas, whose coffin was to be put on display at the giant downtown cathedral.

On arriving at the airport, he said: "The Catholic people, the people of Mexico, are in mourning."

Mr. Salinas sent a letter to Pope John Paul II, who appointed Posadas Cardinal of Guadalajara two years ago, expressing regret and anger.

"The entire society and the government that leads it have expressed our strongest repudiation and our greatest indignation," he said.

Felipe De Jesus Le-I Galvan, Archbishop of Monterrey, called for police "to put an end to the wave of violence that grips our country."

Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, is considered a major drug-trafficking centre and has been the site of much drug-related violence in recent years.

Its most notorious case involved the torture and murder of U.S. drug agent Enrique Camarena by drug kingpins in 1985.

Millions vote in Cambodian elections

PHNOM PENH (R) — Millions of Cambodians, including radical Khmer Rouge activists, have turned out to vote in U.N.-supervised elections, giving their backing to the country's first multi-party for decades.

Seventy per cent of registered voters had cast ballots by the time polls closed Monday night, the second day of a six-day national poll to restore democracy after decades of war and civil strife.

"What is so good is that Cambodians just went out and showed they wanted to vote," said a Western diplomat in Phnom Penh.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge, which refused to run in the elections saying they favoured its arch-enemies in the Phnom Penh government, began sending unarmed soldiers and officials out of the zones under its control to vote Tuesday.

Voters are electing members of a Constituent Assembly that will draft a constitution and then form a government.

The U.N. organisers of the election said 3,318,314 Cambodians had voted and others continued to stream to the polling stations Tuesday.

The 22,000-strong U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has spent 14 months registering 4,764,430 people to vote. The total bill for U.N. operations in Cambodia is expected to come to \$4 billion.

A senior UNTAC official said the Khmer Rouge, which had threatened to disrupt the elections, were trucking voters to the district of Thmar Pouk near the Thai border in Banteay Meanchey province.

"They want to make sure war-

lord Dien Del gets elected," he said.

General Dien Del leads the anti-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces, which controls the area.

Dien Del, regarded as one of the ablest commanders in the U.S.-supported army of General Lon Nol in the mid-1970s, has long had a close relationship with General Prom Sou, the local Khmer Rouge chief, despite their opposite ideologies.

The Khmer Rouge put Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s in which a million people died through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said 200 Khmer Rouge soldiers came to the polls in Poi Pet on the Thai border, unarmed and with voter registration cards.

"They are welcome and the doors of the polling station are wide open to them," he said.

U.N. officials and diplomats said the fact that Khmer Rouge was voting was a positive sign and a change of tactics by the guerrillas, who earlier had warned anyone taking part in the election would be joining an "undertaking of treason."

"Clearly it's a good sign," a second diplomat said. "But the (Khmer Rouge) voting is still on a reasonably small scale. The significance rests on how many more come in the next few days."

There were only scattered incidents of violence reported in the country Tuesday, no worse than on average days, the U.N. said.

U.N. officials who feared the polls might turn into a bloodbath had called in extra peacekeeping troops and equipment before the

start.

The United States said Monday it was encouraged by the voter turnout during the first two days of Cambodia's first election in decades.

"According to our reports from Cambodia, the mood of the people is enthusiastic and purposeful (and) many had walked for miles and lined up for hours to cast their ballots," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"We applaud the hard work of the U.N. personnel in making this election possible, despite great difficulties, and we also want to express our admiration for the courage and determination of the Cambodian people to decide their own political future," Mr. Boucher said.

While expressing concern about the detention by the Khmer Rouge of two U.N. military personnel, who were later released unharmed, Mr. Boucher said that seemed to be the only major security incident.

"I think we're very encouraged by the turnout, by the enthusiasm with which the voting is being conducted, and we're very appreciative of the U.N. for having made it possible under very difficult circumstances," he added.

Muslim troops guarding the area around the bridge said earlier the bodies disappeared during the night and they did not know who was responsible.

The couple, both aged 25, were shot as they crossed a no man's land between Serb and Muslim controlled sectors while trying to escape from Sarajevo last Wednesday.

Muslim and Serb authorities had been arguing over which side had the right to recover the bodies of Brekic, who was Serb, and Ismic, who was Muslim.

Brekic and Ismic had been sweethearts since high school. Their bodies, locked in a last embrace, rested at the foot of the bridge over Sarajevo's Miljacka River.

Brekic's mother Radmila pleaded for the couple to be buried together.

"The world must know about this," she said, saying their "special love" had been snuffed out by killers in a crazy war.

Serbs remove bodies of Sarajevo lovers

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb soldiers removed the bodies of two lovers under cover of darkness from the Sarajevo Bridge where snipers killed them a week ago, a Bosnian Serb official said Tuesday.

Veselko Gazibar, a Serb liaison officer with U.N. peacekeeping forces in the Bosnian capital, said the bodies of Bosko Brekic and Admira Ismic had been taken to the Serb suburb of Grbavica.

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S. African police arrest PAC leaders

JOHANNESBURG . South Africa (AP) — In pre-dawn raids nationwide, police arrested leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), a militant black group linked to the recent mass attacks against white civilians.

It was the biggest roundup of black political leaders since President F.W. de Klerk's famed reforms in 1990 to end apartheid.

It also came at a delicate moment, when black and white leaders were nearing agreement on a date for the country's first election to include blacks.

The investigations are continuing and further arrests are possible," Law and Order Minister Hensley Kriel said in a brief statement.

In another development, riot police in armoured vehicles waged running gun battles Tuesday morning with black residents in Kaitleng, one of several townships southeast of Johannesburg convulsed by violence in recent days.

Police set up barricades on the main roads in Kaitleng, while young militants erected burning tyre barricades in the streets.

Police said they found 11 following overnight fighting, and eight people were injured in clashes Tuesday morning.

The death toll in the region is at least 45 since a three-sided battle erupted Saturday between police and two rival black groups, the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Meanwhile, the PAC said dozens of its leaders had been detained and it immediately suspended its participation in the multiparty negotiations.

In a bizarre twist, Benny Alexander, the PAC's secretary general, escaped shortly after he was arrested, the group said.

Police surrounded Mr. Alexander's Johannesburg home at 4:30 a.m. (0230 GMT), witnesses said, and Craig Kotze, spokesman for the Law and Order Ministry, confirmed Mr. Alexander's arrest.

But shortly afterward, Mr. Alexander turned up at PAC headquarters in downtown Johannesburg, PAC officials said. In a telephone interview with the South African Press Association, Mr. Alexander said he fled from a police van when the officers weren't paying attention and a neighbour unlocked the van's door.

Police claimed Mr. Alexander was released, but otherwise released few details of their operation.

Mr. Alexander said the PAC had withdrawn from Tuesday's round of multiparty talks and would not return until leaders had a chance to confer.

The group's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, has said it will not lay down its weapons until blacks are in power. The guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks that have killed white civilians.

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Angola rebels claim capture of oil town

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Fighting flared anew in northern Angola and UNITA rebels said they seized the strategic northern oil town of Soyo in a five-hour battle, just days after peace talks collapsed.

"We surrounded the town days ago and our troops launched the attack just before dawn, around 5 a.m. (0600 GMT). At 10 o'clock, Soyo fell," John Marques Kakumba, the UNITA representative for West Africa, said in Abidjan Monday.

The Ivorian capital was the venue for 40 days of U.N.-mediated talks that broke down Friday over UNITA's refusal to withdraw from captured towns and villages. It came two days after the United States formally abandoned the rebels it used to arm by recognising the former

Marxist government of President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

Andrew Young, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Sunday said President Bill Clinton's recognition of the government had disrupted the delicate balance of the talks, though they had been stalled for nearly two weeks on the same point.

Mr. Kakumba said the rebels had taken a number of prisoners in the fight for Soyo but gave no casualty figures. "We're doing mopping up operations at the moment," he said in a telephone interview.

Fighting that erupted again last October has been bloody. Some 50,000 people have died, 15,000 of them in the battle that won UNITA the central city of Huambo.

A total of 400,000 people have died in the 18-year conflict that began on the eve of the southern African nation's independence from Portugal in 1975.

Diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity by telephone from the Angolan capital, Luanda, said UNITA began the attack over the weekend in Soyo, because oil production has kept the government's war effort afloat.

UNITA captured Soyo earlier, this year, then lost it to a crack police troops called the "ninjas" who were replaced by inexperienced, poorly armed soldiers as the government became harder pressed, the diplomats said.

Its loss could foil government hopes of regaining full control of northern Angola and the coast, traditional areas of support for Mr. Dos Santos.

Archivist finds diary of Rasputin

ST PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — An archivist said he had found the lost diary of Grigory Rasputin, the crude Siberian monk whose mystic power over the last Russian czar has been debated for decades.

"The historic value can't be doubted," said David Raskin, head of the Russian State Historical Archive's Department of Scholarship and Research.

The 12 pages of the dusty green notebook are filled with observations of philosophy, child-rearing and life at the court of Czar Nicholas II, who was overthrown in the 1917 revolution. Mr. Raskin, 57, was reluctant to divulge the contents of the diary because he hopes to publish it.

He said many of the archive's older workers had known of the diary for years, but had either misjudged its value, forgotten about it or had been discouraged by Rasputin's nearly illegible writing and atrocious grammar.

Mr. Raskin discovered the diary anew and set about translating it "from Rasputin into Russian" about a month ago.

Despite his peasant origins and rough manner, Rasputin was a favourite of Czar Nicholas' wife, Alexandra, thanks to his unexplained ability to stem the internal bleeding of her son, Alexei, who suffered from hemophilia.

Rasputin supposedly possessed hypnotic powers and he claimed to be able to work miracles. His influence on Czarina Alexandra was great, and she consulted him on various state matters, including the appointments and dismissals of high-ranking government officials.

Rasputin's mixture of religious fervour and sexual indulgence led many outside the court to grumble. Some newspapers at the time even speculated that he had seduced the czarina or her daughters.

Rasputin's tawdry reputation and growing political power helped tarnish the czar's reputation in the days leading to his overthrow. The church stepped in

at one point, denouncing Rasputin as a fraud and sending him back to Siberia temporarily.

In 1916, a group of right-wing patriots lured Rasputin to a St. Petersburg mansion where they poisoned him with tainted pastries and then shot him when he didn't die. Still alive, Rasputin was thrown into the icy Neva River where he finally drowned.

Rasputin sometimes has been portrayed as a mad priest whose influence over the czar's family so irritated the Russian people that it led in part to the revolution of 1917 and the eventual rule of the Communists.

While all concede that Rasputin was extremely unpopular — his murder was celebrated in many circles — most historians argue he was a convenient scapegoat for the failings of the Romanov government and only an incidental factor in the revolution.

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For once, the critics get it right at Cannes

CANNES (R) — For once, the critics at Cannes got it right.

The Piano and Farewell to My Concubine, joint winners of the festival's top Golden Palm Award, always looked like winners in a relatively thin year.

Jane Campion's *The Piano*, a passionate love story set in the wilds of 19th-century New Zealand, was the first Australian film to win top honours at Cannes and the first directed by a woman.

Chen Kaige's *Concubine*, an epic story about actors at the Peking Opera over 50 years of this century, was the first Chinese film to win, and marked a general resurgence of Asian cinema.

Last year few critics backed the winning horse, Bille August's Swedish costume drama *The Best Intentions*, and saw its victory as a compromise choice.

Both 1993's winning films won wide critical acclaim in a festival year so short of new discoveries that many critics — and buyers — left town early in disappointment.

"Where is this year's *Strictly Ballroom*, this year's *Reservoir Dog*?" asked Canadian critic John Harkness, recalling two of 1992's Cannes surprise hits.

The most offbeat success was British director Mike Leigh's dark comedy about social outcasts, *Naked*.

Brooding over themes of rootlessness and sexual violence and shot through with cynical humour, it earned star David Thewlis and Leigh awards for acting and directing.

Otherwise the festival was mostly a record of failures and disappointments.

The U.S. cinema, usually so dominant at Cannes, was a shadow of its usual self because new films by such distinguished directors as Martin Scorsese and Robert Altman were held back for the Venice Film Festival in September.



The Cannes Golden Palm is awarded jointly to Chinese Director Chen Kaige (2nd R) for his film *Farewell To My Concubine* and to New Zealand's Jane Campion (winner) for *The Piano* at the end of

the 46th Cannes Film Festival. Sam Neill (2nd L), who plays in *The Piano* accepted the award for Campion (AFP photo)

Abel Ferrara's *Body Snatchers*, a remake of the 1950s horror classic, was the most booted film in competition despite a certain technical stylishness.

The best received U.S. film was *Falling Down*, a Michael Douglas vehicle about an unemployed defence worker who cracks and turns violent in downtown Los Angeles.

It was too mainstream in approach to stand much chance with the relatively high-brow critics at Cannes, however.

The happiest Americans Monday night were surely the executives at the Disney Corporation who last month bought out independent producers Miramax for \$50 million.

Miramax, which produced the offbeat Oscar-winning thriller *The Crying Game*, were also

behind both *The Piano* and *Farewell To My Concubine*.

The takeover has had a mixed reaction in the independent sector, with some seeing it as a sign of confidence in their work and others a threat to their continued artistic freedoms.

AWARDS

Here is a complete list of the Cannes Film Festival awards: Golden Palm (Best Film): *The Piano* (Jane Campion, Australia) and *Farewell To My Concubine* (Chen Kaige, China)

Grand Jury Prize: *Faraway, So Close* (Wim Wenders, Germany)

Best Director: Mike Leigh (*Naked*, Britain)

Best Actor: David Thewlis (*Naked*)

Best Actress: Holly Hunter (*The Piano*)

Jury Prize: *The Puppetmaster* (Hou Hsiao Hsien, Taiwan) and *Raining Stones* (Ken Loach, Britain)

Technical Prize: *Mazeppa* (Barabas, France)

Miss Universe meets Mexican president

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dayana Torres of Puerto Rico, the newly-crowned Miss Universe 1993, has insisted that she won her crown fairly despite news reports that she was too young to enter and the contest was fixed.

Rumours about the student and part-time model surfaced almost as soon as she was crowned Miss Universe Friday during a glittering ceremony at the National Auditorium.



NON-SMOKERS WIN: World Health Organisation (WHO) representative Abdul Majid Abdul Hadi presents Royal Jordanian (RJ) President Mahmoud Jamal Balqez with a meritorious certificate and a golden medal from WHO in recognition of its efforts to stem the smoking habit. The award was presented on the occasion of No-Smoke Day which is internationally observed at the request of WHO on May 31 each year. Dr. Abdul Hadi paid tribute to RJ for banning smoking on its domestic flights and several international short flights. Mr. Balqez said RJ was banning smoking in the interest of its passengers' health. He voiced RJ's appreciation to WHO for the award.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince opens educational institute exhibit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday opened an exhibition depicting the achievements of the Educational Development Conference, which was held in Amman. Prince Hassan urged representatives of educational institutions present at the opening ceremony to invest in the capabilities of the young generation and paid tribute to efforts exerted by them to develop the educational process in Jordan.

Cabinet appoints secretary

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday appointed Mohammad Faleh Al Khalaleh as secretary of the Council of Ministers. The appointment takes effect June 1. The Cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in the meeting of the information ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement which will be held in North Korea from June 14-18. Jordan's delegation to the conference will be headed by Director of Jordan Television Ibrahim Shahzada.

CDD puts out major Aqaba fire

AQABA (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) personnel Tuesday managed to control and extinguish a fire which engulfed two stores and a house in Al Manara area in Aqaba. CDD Centre Director Major Omar Al Tarawneh said the fire was caused by a short circuit in a car repair shop, which extended to a neighbouring grocery store and a house. He said delay in informing the CDD contributed to extending the fire to the house. No casualties were reported as a result of the incident.

EC supports King's human rights centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Community (EC) Wednesday voiced its support and backing for His Majesty King Hussein's call for the establishment of a freedom, democracy and human rights studies centre in the Arab World. In a letter sent to the Jordanian mission in Brussels, the committee said, "we strongly support and back His Majesty King Hussein's initiative to establish this centre."

Palestinian affairs director meets with Swiss envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Adel Irshied Wednesday received Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Gian Frederico Pedotti. Mr. Irshied and Mr. Pedotti discussed issues of common concern to Jordan and Switzerland.

Delegation to ILO conference is named

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the 80th session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference which will open in Geneva June 2 and will last for three weeks. The Jordanian delegation will be headed by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and will include as members Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Saleh Al Tarawneh, Muradi Mbeideen, Adel Lutfi and Ibrahim Al Zaghbeer who will represent the government, Ali Al Dajani, Amin Al Hussein and Abdul Noor Habaibeh who will represent the employers sector and Mazen Al Ma'aiteh, Abdul Rahman Al Kabarti and Abdul Rahim Al Hajj Hassan to represent the labour sector.

Al Watani club receives gifts from Britain

ZARQA (Petra) — Al Watani Club for the handicapped in Zarqa Wednesday received various sports equipment presented by the British government as a gift to the club. The equipment was presented by the British charge d'affaires in Amman.

200 teachers to go to Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has announced that it will be sending 200 school teachers to Oman as of the next scholastic year. The announcement follows an agreement between the Jordanian and Omani governments to hire 200 teachers by the Omani Ministry of Education as part of the educational and cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries. An Omani committee will visit Jordan June 26 to interview and sign contracts with the teachers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.

Armenian miniature exhibition adapted by Clara Metzhegopian at the British Council.

Exhibition of sculptures by Artist Abdul Hany Musallam at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Rafiq Al Lahham at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

Lecture entitled "Jerash

and the Trojan Project in Rome" by Prof. Giorgio Gullini at 7 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

Feature film entitled "Prince of the City" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (r-rated, 167 minutes)

Scandal

Jordan urges Bulgaria to import more phosphate

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday urged Bulgaria to import more of the Kingdom's phosphate and primary products in order to help adjust the balance of trade which is heavily in favour of Bulgaria. The request was made during trade and economic talks held here between teams from both sides, led by visiting Bulgarian Minister of Industry Ruman Bekov and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour.

Ministry Secretary General Marwan Awad, who attended the talks, told the Jordan Times that last year Jordan imported JD 28 million worth of Bulgarian goods and exported JD 2 million worth of Jordanian products, including phosphate.

At the talks Wednesday, the two sides discussed arrangements for the settlement of payments through the central banks in both countries and increasing Jordanian exports to Bulgaria especially primary materials, said Mr. Awad.

He said the two ministers agreed that the Jordanian-Bulgarian Economic Committee meet again in Sophia, the capital of Bulgaria, next month or in July, when Jordanian industrial fairs will be underway in the Balkan state.

Ministry sources said that Bulgaria imports 60,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate annually, but Jordan was seeking to raise the quantity to 50,000 tonnes. They explained that Jordan's imports of Bulgarian products are sold through the military and civil service consumer corporations.

Mr. Bekov had told Dr. Ensour at the meeting that the two countries hold common ground for close cooperation in trade and economic fields especially as Bulgaria is now oriented towards the market economy and is dealing freely with various nations.

Referring to the Bulgarian economy, he said that his government has introduced legislation on guarantees for foreign investments in the country.

For his part, Dr. Ensour called for greater measures of cooperation between the two countries, noting that Bulgaria and Jordan have been conducting trade over the past 30 years and had set up a joint economic committee in 1976 to promote such cooperation.

Mr. Bekov and Dr. Ensour visited the Sahab Industrial City and toured industrial installations there.

Following the first session of talks, Mr. Bekov and Dr. Ensour called on Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to brief him on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister was quoted as emphasising Jordan's eagerness to bolster its commercial ties with Bulgaria.

Mr. Bekov and Dr. Ensour outlined to the prime minister the



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday meets with visiting Bulgarian Minister of Industry Ruman Bekov

nature of the discussions which they said came in light of earlier trade agreements and aimed at bolstering trade links and adjusting the trade balance between both countries.

Egyptian official arrives for talks on joint ventures

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah arrived in Amman Wednesday on a several-day visit to Jordan to participate in the meetings of the general assembly of the Egyptian-Jordanian Investment and Development Company.

Dr. Makramallah said the general assembly will discuss in its meetings the prospect of establishing two projects in Jordan and Egypt.

The first is a company which will produce aluminium sulphates and will be based in Aqaba; the second company, which will manufacture clothes, will be established in the Egyptian city of the Tenth of Ramadan, he said. Dr. Makramallah added that the assembly will also discuss launching four joint ventures in the future.

Dr. Makramallah gave no further information on the ventures, saying an announcement will be made after the general assembly studies them.

The Egyptian minister expressed hope that such meetings will contribute to the economies of Jordan and Egypt.

Mideast peace talks parties to form desertification research network

TOKYO (Petra) — Jordan, along with other Middle Eastern countries, has agreed to participate in the creation of a network of research institutions in the region to deal with the danger of desertification.

Agreement on the project, which will be financed by the World Bank, appeared in a final statement issued by the Committee on Environmental Affairs set up by the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The statement, which came at the end of the committee meeting here, said that it will dispatch a technical team to the countries of the Middle East to name those institutions and research centres which will be involved in the desertification research work.

As well as Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Oman, Palestine, and Israel have expressed willingness to be involved in the network.

Committee sources said the

meetings were a success and its results are expected to positively contribute to the Middle East peace process in spite of the tension that cropped up during the deliberations.

The committee said earlier that tension arose when the Palestinian delegation requested that a special environmental institution be set up in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands as part of the projected autonomy rule for the Palestinians.

New civil aviation association agreed to by 13 Arab states

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and 13 Arab states have decided that Rabat should serve as a permanent seat for the association and elected Hamzeh Dabbagh from Saudi Arabia as the association secretary general.

The Jordanian delegation to the Rabat meeting played an instrumental role in the formation of the association in view of Jordan's vast experience in this sector, said Mr. Jweiber.

An executive committee affiliated to the association will submit a full report on the project to the

Arab ministers of transport during their next meeting in October, before final approval is given, said Mr. Jweiber.

The transport ministers will also discuss such questions as ways of confronting the European airlines merger challenge, the future of Arab civil aviation, and prospect of creating a pan-Arab airline, said Mr. Jweiber.

He said that although delegates from 16 Arab states attended the meeting, only 13 initialled the project.

Health ministry allocates JD 700,000 to establish thalassemia treatment centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — In implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker the health ministry has allocated the sum of JD 700,000 to set up a centre for the treatment of thalassemia a blood disease.

The announcement was made by Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh, who said that JD 360,000 have been earmarked for the purchase of equipment and setting up special laboratories at Jordan University Hospital, which will serve as a centre for diagnosing the disease.

Treatment of thalassemia patients will take place at the King Hussein Medical Centre, where JD 230,000 will be spent to set up special facilities, said Dr.

Bataineh. At the same time, the health ministry will launch a campaign to educate the public about this disease, said the minister.

The health ministry has already set up technical committees to work out specifications for the planned centre at the university hospital, and tenders for its creation will soon be announced, added Dr. Bataineh.

The King had instructed the health minister to take steps to create the centres, during his visit last week to the Royal Medical Services and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

According to Dr. Bataineh, the disease is associated with countries of the Mediterranean, including Jordan.

The total number of registered thalassemia patients in Jordan is 600, of whom 315 are treated at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman, and the rest at Jordan University Hospital, King Hussein Medical Centre, the military hospital in Irbid, Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid, Al Hussein Hospital in Salt and the military hospital in Zarqa.

The minister pointed out that 84 per cent of the patients are children under 10 years of age.

On the whole, he added, 60 per cent of the patients are located within the Amman, Zarqa and Salt areas.

Thalassemia is a hereditary disease, and many cases appear in children born to couples who are close relatives.



Aref Al Bataineh

Opening Shortly

Juliana's
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The most
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Shmesani - Opposite Kentucky Fried Chicken

China shows it will not tolerate Lhasa protests

PEKING (R) — Chinese police fired tear-gas at protesters in Lhasa for a second day Tuesday, determined to quell the worst trouble in Tibet since violent unrest in 1989 led to more than one year of martial law.

Police, clearly intent on preventing a repeat of Monday's nine-hour demonstration that involved up to 2,000 people, threw tear-gas canisters from rooftops and fired them at a small group of demonstrators as they gathered near the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's holiest shrine, on Tuesday.

"The Chinese were very well placed to crush anything," said a Western traveller contacted by telephone.

Police in uniform and in plainclothes patrolled the streets on foot and in jeeps. The authorities made obvious use of surveillance cameras scattered around the city.

They posted signs warning foreigners not to take part in the protests against inflation and Chinese rule of Tibet.

After the police show of force in the afternoon, Lhasa was tense but quiet, residents said. Most stores were closed, and police left their roof-top watchposts.

Tuesday's gathering was clearly on a much smaller scale than the demonstration on Monday, when protesters stoned government buildings and police fired volley after volley of tear-gas and shot their machine guns into the air.

A police spokesman reached by telephone condemned the protest as a "counter-revolutionary activity" — one of the most serious crimes in China's judicial system.

He said eight or nine police had

been injured in the protest. Some of them seriously. He knew of no arrests and maintained that no protesters had been injured.

"It began as a protest in the name of lowering prices for grain and oil, but it changed its nature into a counter-revolutionary activity," the police officer said. "The demonstrators plotted to attack government offices and police stations and to beat policemen."

Witnesses said they saw a dozen or more Tibetans being detained.

Monday's protest came one day after China celebrated 42 years of communist control over Tibet, a rule that has periodically sparked unrest.

Foreign residents of Lhasa said that there had been an increased security presence for weeks, as officials apparently feared that the anniversary would spark protests.

A delegation of senior European diplomats ended a week-long fact-finding visit to Tibet Sunday, with several members saying they were not reassured about the human rights situation there. China admitted to the delegation that three activists had been arrested before the group's arrival.

But Beijing on Tuesday dismissed as a lie a report by the human rights group Amnesty International and the monitoring organisation Tibet Information Network that more than 100 Tibetans had been detained recently.

"The so-called report that more than 100 Tibetans have been detained in Tibet is a sheer fabrication," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Arafat reportedly suggests Gaza pullout

(Continued from page 1)

make the parties more entrenched in their present positions and give an opportunity to the anti-peace forces to gain ground," he said.

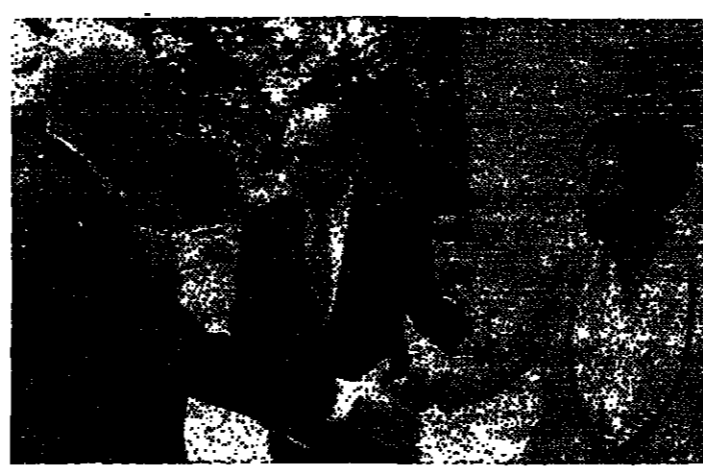
Mr. Kooijmans agreed with Mr. Peres and said he had made the same point in the Arab capitals he visited, Beirut, Damascus and Amman. His two days in Israel wrapped up Mr. Kooijmans' Middle East tour. Earlier in the day he had met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Peres appealed for foreign investments to help create jobs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which were sealed off by Israel nearly two months ago.

"The closure has barred tens of thousands of Palestinian labourers from their menial jobs in Israel, dealing a serious blow to the weak Palestinian economy."

In a gentle criticism of Israel, Mr. Kooijmans said the economic structure of the occupied territories must be improved and "also measures must be taken to improve the feelings of the security in the field of human rights the population is entitled to."

Israel is on the defensive about its human rights record. Earlier this week, the president of the International Red Cross sharply



Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans is introduced to Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi Tuesday by chief Palestinian delegate Faisal Husseini in Jerusalem (AFP photo)

criticised the government, saying killings of civilians by Israeli soldiers and the closure violated international human rights convention.

Mr. Kooijmans also met Tuesday with members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, including Mr. Husseini.

Mr. Husseini described the last round of talks with the Israelis on a framework for Palestinian self-rule as "very difficult" and said U.S. compromise proposals were not satisfactory.

"But we are still in discussion with the Americans, and we hope and believe that the Americans can do better than this," Mr. Husseini told reporters after the one-hour meeting with the Dutch minister.

Mr. Husseini said the U.S. administration has invited the Palestinian delegates for preliminary talks before the next round of negotiations, which is to start in June. He said his team had not decided yet whether to accept.

Sayeh says no shift in stand

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Abdul Hamid Sayeh Tuesday stood firm on his decision to resign and said a rejection of his move by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership was not binding on him.

"I have taken a principled decision to submit my resignation as and when the PNC meets next, and I find no reason to change that decision," Sheikh Sayeh told the Jordan Times.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said in Damascus Monday that the organisation's leadership had decided to reject Sheikh Sayeh's resignation.

Mr. Abed Rabbo described the respected PNC speaker's decision "as an expression of Palestinian wrath and anger at the peace negotiations and the obstacles they encountered as a result of Israel's intransigence."

"The Palestinian leadership, considering this stand as a national Palestinian position, rejects the resignation," Mr. Abed Rabbo was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Sheikh Sayeh, 86, once a staunch support of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who has said the Palestinians would continue the peace negotiations with Israel, cited poor health, disillusionment with the 19-month-old talks and public differences between the

negotiators and the PLO leadership as his reasons for his decision to resign.

Speaking through a family member, Sheikh Sayeh, who is resting at home undergoing treatment, said Tuesday that the PNC in its entirety rather than the PLO Executive Committee should decide whether to accept his resignation. He appeared to leave the door open, however, for a reconsideration of his decision if the council rejected it.

Sheikh Sayeh "will be bound by the decision of the PNC" on his resignation, the family member said, adding that the sheikh was not aware of Mr. Abed Rabbo's statement or its content.

"In any event, Sheikh Sayeh will not entertain any more questions from the media in this respect," the Jordan Times was told.

Informed Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat, anxious to avoid further differences in Palestinian ranks over the lack of tangible progress in the peace talks, maintained hopes that Sheikh Sayeh would reverse his decision.

The PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile has not met since October 1991 when it endorsed Palestinian participation in the Middle East process, which was launched with an international conference in Madrid, Spain, a few days later.

No PNC meeting has been scheduled, and several PNC members are reportedly trying to convene the council before

the tenth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks tentatively set to begin in mid-June.

Sheikh Sayeh earlier confirmed that Mr. Arafat was trying to have him change his mind.

"I told him I cannot do that since I do want to be accused of damaging the Palestinian cause," Sheikh Sayeh told the Jordan Times earlier this week. "Tragedies are befalling the Palestinians and I do not want to be blamed in history..."

Israel does not respect U.N. resolutions and the U.S. is not willing to pressure the Israelis," he said. "Without such pressure any solution to the Palestinian problem will not be just and will not meet the Palestinian aspirations."

Analysts said Sheikh Sayeh's stand should be sending a strong message to the Israelis and the U.S. of the pressure that Mr. Arafat faces and should dissuade them from demanding more concessions from the Palestinian side.

"After all Sheikh Sayeh is not a hardliner who rejects the concept of peace talks with Israel," said a Palestinian analyst, who preferred anonymity. "He represents a large constituency among the moderates and if he is publicly indicating his disappointment with the course of the peace process, it should tell the Israelis and Americans something: Demanding further concessions from the Palestinians will only worsen things."

Polls show support fading for Clinton

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's job approval rating slipped substantially in recent weeks as public confidence in his economic programme waned, new public opinion polls show.

The latest polls add to the image of an embattled president harmed by public relations disasters such as his sacking of the White House travel office and his \$200 haircut aboard Air Force One which closed down part of Los Angeles airport.

As Mr. Clinton struggles to drum up enough votes to pass his economic plan through Congress, an ABC News poll of 1,005 adults

Monday showed that only 46 per cent approved the president's handling of the job, while 48 per cent disapproved.

The May 20-23 poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Only a month ago, the president enjoyed a 59 per cent approval rating against 39 per cent disapproval.

ACORN/USA Today/Gallup poll of 1,023 adults taken over the weekend said the president's job approval rating had fallen to 44 per cent approval and 46 per cent disapproval compared with 55 per cent backing and 37 per cent opposition one month ago.

Support for his economic programme, which includes a new energy tax, also faded. Some 44 per cent approve of it and 45 per cent disapprove, compared with 55 per cent in favour and 39 per cent against in late April.

Mr. Clinton has been getting lower approval ratings than his presidential predecessors at the same point in their terms.

Among Mr. Clinton's problems, according to the pollsters, is a continuing weak economy and a dislike of the Clinton tax plan.

That is bad news for the president, whose plan to reduce the budget deficit through spending cuts and tax increases,

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S., N. Korea agree to senior-level talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and North Korea have agreed to senior-level talks in New York beginning June 2, the U.S. State Department announced Monday. North Korea recently announced that it planned to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, raising international concern that Pyongyang might forge ahead with its reported nuclear weapons programme. The United States offered senior-level talks with North Korea as part of a campaign to try to persuade Pyongyang to reverse its decision on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Over the last several weeks the two nations have had several low-level meetings to lay the groundwork for this senior meeting. The last senior-level meeting between the two nations was in January 1992 and involved then-Under-Secretary of State Arnold Kantor.

Czechoslovak president's nephew shot dead

MOSCOW (R) — The nephew of Czechoslovak President Zdenek Duzek was shot dead Tuesday in a gunfight in the capital of the Russian breakaway region, Itar-Tass news agency said. Tass quoted the local Czechoslovak press agency as saying Shamil Dudayev, 23, was seriously wounded in a clash between armed supporters and opponents of the president in the capital Grozny. He died several hours later in hospital. Several other people were injured in the shooting which broke out on the fringes of a demonstration against the president. Police quickly roped off the area. The killing of such a close relative of Mr. Dudayev could raise fears of wider bloodshed in the North Caucasus region where opponents of the president have mounted an open political challenge in recent weeks. Armed supporters and opponents of the president have camped out at protests in Grozny for nearly two months, fanning fears of an outbreak of fighting.

Justices rule FBI sources subject to disclosure

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) may not automatically withhold the names of all sources it contacts in criminal investigations, the supreme court has ruled. The court, ruling unanimously, said the FBI was not entitled to such a blanket exemption from the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. "It may be true that many, or even most, individual sources will expect confidentiality," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the court. "But the government offers no explanation, other than ease of administration, why that expectation always should be presumed." But she added, "when circumstances such as the nature of the crime investigated and the witness' relation to it support an inference of confidentiality, the government is entitled to a presumption." The ruling is not a total defeat for the FBI. It set aside a federal appeals court ruling that said the FBI must demonstrate it promised confidentiality to each source whose identity it wants to protect.

Italy's De Mita under inquiry — ANSA

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Ex-Premier Ciriaco de Mita has been formally warned he is under investigation for corruption in connection with rebuilding work after a 1988 earthquake in southern Italy, ANSA news agency said Tuesday. Mr. De Mita, a Christian Democrat, was prime minister from April 1988 to May 1989. Mr. De Mita was the third former prime minister to be formally notified he is under inquiry in Italy's various corruption scandals. He was notified by Naples magistrates, ANSA said. Several people, including Mr. De Mita's brother Michele, have already been arrested on charges of fraud, false accounting and receiving stolen goods in connection with the disaster funds. The earthquake struck De Mita's native Itrippia area on the border of the Campania and Basilicata regions, killing 3,000 people and destroying 300,000 homes. Italian government and European aid to the region has so far totalled \$45 billion. The former prime minister resigned as chairman of a parliamentary committee charged with reforming Italy's political system after his brother's arrest in March.

Serrano suspends constitutional rule

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano suspended the constitution and dissolved congress Tuesday, apparently fearing a possible coup attempt by top military officers. He made the announcement in a national radio and television broadcast as police surrounded key buildings in the capital and the homes of the president of the supreme court and the attorney general. The unusual activity in the city came one day after the Catholic Church said that because of inflexibility by the government and leftist guerrillas it might withdraw a bishop who is mediating Guatemala's struggling peace process. "I have decided to suspend the constitution temporarily and partially," Mr. Serrano said in a 7 a.m. (1300 GMT) broadcast. He said he had taken his decision because of what he described as a "breakdown in law and order," including civil unrest in the capital in recent weeks.

U.S. lawmakers want U.S. to rejoin UNESCO

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Members of Congress are urging President Bill Clinton to develop a strategy "to bring the United States back into active and full membership" in the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) this year. At a news conference May 20, Congressman Estaban Torres and other legislators strongly advocated U.S. re-entry into UNESCO, contending that the organisation has made the changes needed to justify U.S. membership. The United States withdrew from UNESCO in 1984 over questions of internal management and political polarisation. Mr. Torres, who was U.S. envoy to UNESCO during the administration of President Jimmy Carter, introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives May 19 stating that the national "policy interest... would be better served if the United States would resume participation" in UNESCO "and use its strategic position in the organisation to demonstrate... the values of the United States."

COLUMN

New Jersey governor honoured

BOSTON (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio received the annual John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for his steadfast support for gun control despite intense pressure. Florio, a Democrat, accepted the award with humility. "I look forward to the day when public servants who follow the dictates of their conscience are not regarded as heroes worthy of awards, but simply as men and women who are worthy of the offices to which they've been entrusted," he said. New Jersey in 1990 enacted the nation's strictest ban on assault weapons. Mr. Florio beat repeated attempts in the state legislature to repeal the measure. The Profile in Courage Award takes its name from the 1957 Pulitzer Prize winning book by then-Sen. John F. Kennedy. It honours people for displaying political courage. Mr. Florio, who was chosen for his stands on gun control and educational and economic reform, received the award at the John F. Kennedy Library, along with \$25,000 and a silver lantern. The presentation was attended by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and her children, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr. Also on hand were Ethel Kennedy and U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Colombia destroys largest opium poppy crop ever

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's army has destroyed at least three million opium poppies in the southwestern province of Narino, the largest crop ever destroyed in the South American country, the Colprensa News Agency reported. Colprensa said 60 anti-guerrilla units cut down the plants in the indigenous area of Aponte in El Tablon, more than 460 kilometres southwest of Bogota, at the weekend. It said the units made no arrests but discovered a discotheque equipped with a sophisticated sound and light system, as well as electronic goods in makeshift huts inhabited by the indigenous farmers hired to cultivate the crop. It said the army suspected the Cali drug cartel was going to buy the crop. The poppy's latex is refined to produce heroin. An army spokesman was unavailable for comment. Colprensa also reported that Colombian police seized seven tonnes of marijuana near the Caribbean coastal town of Santa Marta, almost 700 kilometres north of Bogota.

U.S. Senate confirms lesbian for key housing post

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate has confirmed lesbian San Francisco supervisor Roberta Achenberg to a high-ranking Clinton administration post in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 58-31 vote followed an hour-long debate that had mirrored previous arguments about Ms. Achenberg's elevation to the position of assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity. Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, told fellow senators that they should not "vote against a person's private life." "She sure wasn't private when she was hugging and kissing last year in that parade in San Francisco," retorted Sen. Jesse Helms, a conservative North Carolina Republican. Conservative Republicans had argued that Ms. Achenberg lacked the proper temperament to head a federal civil rights office. They cited her opposition to funding by the United Way charitable organisation for the Boy Scouts of America because of its refusal to allow homosexual scoutmasters. But the majority of the senators said they considered her well qualified for the post and said her sexual orientation was not an issue.

U.S. restaurant refuses to serve black secret agents

WASHINGTON (R) — Six black Secret Service agents filed a federal discrimination suit Monday charging that a Branch of the Denny's Restaurant chain refused to serve them because of their race. John Reiman, a lawyer representing the six, said they were good enough to protect the life of the president of the United States, "but apparently they were not good enough to get served a plate of eggs at Denny's." The suit said the six were among 21 Secret Service agents who went to have breakfast at the Denny's Restaurant in Annapolis, Maryland, on April 1. The restaurant served breakfast to all except the six black agents.

Democracy seen taking its time to enter Jordanian bureaucracy

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Taking a week to perform an hour's task, wasting time and money on personal phone calls, taking excessive coffee and tea breaks (and gossiping), asking people to "come tomorrow," and being selectively rude to the public are some of the practices that have led Jordanians to complain about what they see as low work ethics among civil servants.

The man in charge of the 120,000-strong body of civil service, Abdullah Ulayan, says that work ethics are governed by the value system of the civil servants and the extent of their commitment to the laws and regulations governing their mission.

Dr. Ulayan, who heads the Civil Service Commission, agrees that work ethics in Jordan are low when compared to

developed countries and proper management policies.

The lack of democratic practices in government institutions is one of the main factors affecting work ethics of civil servants, he says. "Democracy is only talked about and not practiced in government bureaucracies and the norms of behaviour in these institutions are 'so damn self-centred' and reflect 'autocracy' not democracy, he says.

Bureaucracies live in a "political dualism" and unless the democratic practices that Jordan is witnessing in the political scene penetrate to the work setting, this dualism will have "a bad effect on the behaviour of civil servants, according to Dr. Ulayan.

Government employees, he explains, will only obey by the laws and regulations if these laws were issued and implemented democratically, "securing maximum equality among all subjects."

To introduce democracy and thus improve the work ethics among civil servants, the government needs to focus on developing and employing qualified leadership, Dr. Ulayan says.

According to Dr. Ulayan, in order "to insert good, healthy, participative, committed and devoted work ethics among civil servants" there is a great need to plant "the seeds of good leadership among senior officials.

Although Jordan is "an excellent situation when compared to Arab countries" in terms of leadership qualifications, age and experience, it falls far behind in the selection of senior managers when compared with developed countries, Dr. Ulayan admits.

Some political analysts contend that appointments for top government positions are primarily governed by political and tribal considerations. Although the Council of Minis-

ters still has absolute power in appointing the higher echelons of government employees, politically and socially motivated appointments have significantly decreased since the launching of the democratisation process, according to Dr. Ulayan.

Provided this "momentum" of democratisation continues, Dr. Ulayan hopes, the Higher Council for Civil Service will adopt the reforms proposed by his department aiming at tightening the selection process, introducing an "appraisal system" for top management and providing management training. "Without these (reforms) we can not guarantee a good, solid and accountable leadership," he says.

Accountability, according to Dr. Ulayan, is governed by social, personal and institutional factors. While the institutional factor should be given priority to ensure a strong

accountable system, the personal and social factors such as religion, tribal, ethnic or political affiliations play an extremely important role in the lives of the civil servants, he says. Establishing a strong accountable system to the people will improve work ethics tremendously, Dr. Ulayan maintains.

The lack of democracy and qualified leadership in government institutions are not the only reason behind low work ethics, analysts say. Dr. Ulayan believes the role of work conditions and the lack of material incentives are also contributing factors.

Jordan, he says, has one of the lowest salaries for civil servants in the world. Yet, he insists, "improving salaries and wages will not enhance work ethics unless combined with a good accountability system and leadership.

Dr. Ulayan believes the size of the bureaucracy in Jordan is

reasonable when compared to other countries. But, in Jordan, he says, public posts have no job descriptions, thus, the civil servants do not know what is required of them.

He criticises heads of departments for "spontaneously" creating "unnecessary jobs... without preplanned studies." The type of supervision practised, according to Dr. Ulayan, is "the decisive factor in a working context that determines whether your job is routine or creative... some supervisors invent meaningless work to keep their subordinates busy."

Ma'an Abu Nowar, professor of modern Middle Eastern studies, attributes great importance to qualified leadership in the success of government functioning. In order to improve the current situation, Dr. Abu Nowar says, top management of bureaucracies should set the

example by using work hours efficiently and to the maximum benefit.

He believes that there are "certain aspects of life that waste time, energy and material unnecessarily."

Dr. Abu Nowar emphasises that time management at government institutions is inadequate. "Our main problem is that we are managing the tools of the 21st century in the minds and attitudes of the 30s and 40s... the tools have become sophisticated, while the people's mind and attitudes remain the same," he says.

Dr. Ulayan asserts that there is concern at the highest level of government to introduce administrative reforms to the civil service. He says these reforms would include the simplification of procedures, the introduction of job description and the implementation of training plans.

Weekender



May 27, 1993

Published Every Thursday

Miniatures create a world of devotion, imagination

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British Council this week is hosting an exhibition different from the ones Amman has been used to for some time now. Clara Meizhagopian, at her fourth overall exhibition but the first of this kind, is bringing a refreshing artistic expression to the interested viewers, that of oil painting

on wood. The artist, who calls her works adapted Armenian miniature, says she was inspired by ancient Armenian manuscripts and miniatures. The artists throughout the 12th and 14th centuries, Ms. Meizhagopian says, were particularly involved in ornating the Bible, paying special attention to the initials of the paragraphs which used to carry elaborate, symbolic drawings.

Inspired by these old artists, Ms. Meizhagopian had 100-year-old pieces of walnut and red Swedish wood made into rectangular boards on which to paint her own dainty, painstaking miniatures. The wood provides a naturally coloured background, in tone with the seriousness of the subject or is perhaps the neutral colour

that could best accompany the predominant reds, greens and blues the artist uses. It would be a waste of time to step in and take a fugitive look at the rather small-sized works, not necessarily because of their dimensions but because the details are at times so diminutive that only lingering and scrutinising could partly help decipher the images and symbolism conveyed.

At times exact reproductions of pages of the Bible, at others inspired by these miniatures or completely imaginative creations, the works transport one to worlds of pious devotion, oriental mysticism or childhood fairy tales, depending on the mood of the viewer or his desire to toy with elevated, spiritual concepts or just go back being a carefree child in the world of 1001 nights or Ali Baba.

Ornate corners, created by domed festoons, often frame the less adorned verses from the Bible, written in Armenian or English. The letters invariably contain symbols like fish, flowers, birds. They are so small, at times, that only very perspicacious and sharp eyes could distinguish them.

Much like stained glass in appearance, some paintings have such intricate, detailed ornamentation that angular figures lose sharpness and become curves, straight lines meet in swirling circles containing flower formations.

One painting, somehow odd in its representation, is that of two peacocks, necks interlaced in oneness. (Adam and Eve, perhaps) under a pillared frame where the blue opens up the space and enfolds it at the same time.

The blue, which in true Armenian tradition is traced with white lines that set it out and create a contour, is accompanied in this particular work by less traditional colours: mauve, olive green, beige.

Disappointingly few people came to see the exhibition while I was there. Not even guild solidarity (or curiosity) made some fellow painters come, the artist said. Perhaps it is the children's exams that keep people at home.

To those interested, however, the exhibition runs until May 27, 1993. Then you might get a glimpse at it. I mean a good look.

ART REVIEW

Religious symbols abound: cross, fish, two icon-like works, even several six-pointed stars, which the artist says was a yogin symbol of balance between body and soul before becoming the Hebraic symbol.

Delicate strokes, at times almost invisible, form tiny decorative lines on already pretty small flowers, animals, letters, symbols.

Some minuscule designs, similar to Indian patterns or graceful flowers, are to be found in dissected vegetables, the artist says.

Intricate patterns are coloured a bit different from the traditional green, blue, red, in pink, purple, lilac and golden ochre.

Most times the wooden boards are of great simplicity.



Delicate and intricate, Ms. Clara Meizhagopian's miniatures reveal mastery in handling the brush and love for the detailed ornamentation on old manuscript pages.



the brush and love for the detailed ornamentation on old manuscript pages.

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

Fun in the sun — Japanese style

YOKOHAMA, Japan — It is a hot spring afternoon and hundreds of Japanese in bright swimwear are snoozing on towels beneath palm trees, sipping beer by the water's edge or riding the waves on a surfboard.

Sounds like an ordinary day at the beach — except that this resort is in the middle of an industrial city, the "beach" is indoors and made of plastic, and the waves are artificial.

Welcome to Wild Blue, a 20 billion yen (\$180 million) project designed to attract thousands of holidaymakers who don't want to spend the time or the money trekking

to a real beach, with swimming, sunbathing, and a wave machine at one end and a sloping "beach" at the other. The air temperature is a constant 32 Celsius (89 Fahrenheit).

Once an hour, under the watchful eye of lifeguards, the machine generates two-metre high waves for queues of customers who pay 2,000 yen (\$18) to hire a surfboard. The rest of the time, hundreds of swimmers packed together like rush-hour commuters bob about in gentle waves generated by the

"It's a nice place for a day out," said Koichi Suzuki, basking in one of the Wild Blue saunas with his girlfriend.

"From my home, it's a 30-minute drive. There's lots to do here. It costs about the

same as watching a baseball game. Today's our last visit, but I think we will come again."

The centrepiece of Wild Blue is a long pool with a wave machine at one end and a sloping "beach" at the other. The air temperature is a constant 32 Celsius (89 Fahrenheit).

Once an hour, under the watchful eye of lifeguards, the machine generates two-metre high waves for queues of customers who pay 2,000 yen (\$18) to hire a surfboard. The rest of the time, hundreds of swimmers packed together like rush-hour commuters bob about in gentle waves generated by the

machine. A recorded voice emanates from a nearby pirate ship wreck, warning swimmers of the mercilessness of the sea.

Around the beach are the saunas, hot water baths, sun-lamp chairs, bars and restaurants. On an upper level is a 350-metre (1,150-ft) circular pool, with a current carrying bathers along.

There are also five water chutes, each with its queue of customers, and a small outdoor pool. Staff in Hawaiian shirts and straw hats stand by, walkie-talkies at the ready.

Wild Blue is built on a 30,000 square metre former baseball park in the middle of a mixed residential and industrial area of Yokohama, the big port city adjoining Tokyo.

The resort complex is owned by the giant NKK Corp., one of Japan's big five steel-makers.

Nervous about future demand for steel and ships, NKK decided to diversify from its core products and take advantage of a new leisure boom aimed at affluent Japanese with too little spare time and too little space in which to spend it.

Elsewhere, indoor golf practice courses have sprung up along with indoor ski slopes covered in man-made snow — some open 24 hours a day.

Construction of Wild Blue began in September 1990 and the resort opened in June 1992, complete with parking for 1,000 cars. Staff said an average of 1,000 visitors a day come to Wild Blue at weekends and holidays, and about 500 on weekdays.

"This place has good and bad points," said customer Hiroko Suzuki, wearing a swimsuit with a pattern of tropical flowers.

"It's easier and quicker to get to from our house than the beach. It's clean, there are no mosquitoes or insects and there are plenty of staff to keep an eye on the children."

"But the downside is that it's artificial," she said with a smile, holding the hand of her five-year-old daughter.

"There's no sun or wind or real nature."

peace talks. Now a number of his speeches and essays have been gathered together in a single volume. It provides an insight into Palestinian thinking over the past 25 years.

In his brief forward, the most distinguished writer in the Arab World, the late Albert Hourani, notes that everything Walid Khalidi writes on the Arab-Israeli conflict stems from one fundamental assumption: That the Palestinian problem simply won't go away. As Hourani says, the Palestinians will haunt the chanceries of the world until their existence is recognised.

The sheer durability of the Palestine problem has begun to pay dividends, however embryonic. The present Israeli government is taking the first, tentative steps towards recognising the legitimacy of Palestinian national aspirations. The end of long, dispiriting years of Likud rule has placed the dream of Greater Israel on the defensive. The Palestinians and the occupied territories are being represented, not just by the largely ineffective leadership in Tunis, but also by themselves. And, after more than a year of fitful negotiations, the Middle East peace talks have assumed a degree of permanence. Crises, such as the one presently raging over the fate of more than 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon, will come and go. But all the signs are that the talks will continue and the longer they do so, the more likely they are to secure results.

But as Walid Khalidi points out, the glass of Middle East peace is rarely more than half full. In an essay published in early 1990, he is struck by what he calls an extraordinary constellation of circumstances that seem to point to a just and durable solution of the Palestinian problem, including the end of the Cold War, the increased pragmatism of the Palestinian leadership and the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. And yet Khalidi is pessimistic. Yitzhak Shamir's mind-set dominates the Israeli political scene and the Americans are supporting his 20-point peace plan.

Much has happened in the three years since that essay was written, and the glass of Middle East peace is a little fuller, despite the formidable obstacles that remain. Much of what Khalidi has to say in this, and earlier chapters, is dated. The last essay takes account of the Gulf War, but not the end of Shamir. But what we have here is a record of the development of an eminent Palestinian's thinking over more than 20 years. In the course of that development, he has had cause to adjust and modify his views, and he is not afraid to do so. There has been no apparent attempt to iron out the inconsistencies. For this we must be grateful, for they highlight an important process of evolution. It is urbane and sophisticated, but for all that it has much in common with the changing perspective of the Palestinian people as a whole — Middle East International.

BOOK REVIEWS

"good governance" to the Arab World. Roger Hardy's report, *Arabia After The Storm*, reveals that the six Gulf Cooperation Council states can count on the lack of any such interference. Hardy's report is concerned with internal changes in the Gulf states since the Gulf War. His conclusion is that although for the most part it is business as usual, the "war has unleashed pressures for internal change". These pressures, however, remain in the short term containable, and there is certainly no impetus from abroad for change.

Having said that, Hardy's report is interesting for its observations on how internal pressures have been manifesting themselves. In Saudi Arabia there is an Islamic backlash much of it directed against the ruling family, and simultaneously there are pressures for change coming from liberals — both sides are heavily into writing petitions. The king has been moved to announce the long-promised basic law of government and the institution of a non-binding Consultative Council with 60 appointed members. This is, slow change, but Hardy says it is remarkable that it has happened at all.

In Kuwait, foreign workers are still badly treated, and the Al Sabah family has not relaxed its stranglehold on power, but the country now has an elected assembly in which 30 out of the 50 seats are occupied by the opposition. Everywhere in the Gulf, factors such as oil prices, worries about the succession, Shiite discontent and the hitherto unknown wishes of the educated young will according to Hardy, threaten the internal stability of Gulf societies — Middle East International.

Heba Saleh

The problem won't go away

Palestine Reborn

By Walid Khalidi

I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £14.95

The leading Palestinian academic Walid Khalidi has been writing on Arab-Israeli affairs for a quarter of a century. He has also been involved in the world of Palestinian politics, participating in the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East

Pressure from inside and out

Europe And The Arabs: Discord And Symbiosis

By David McDowall

Arabia After The Storm: Internal Stability Of The Gulf Arab States

By Roger Hardy

Both published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs London 1992, £10 each

In *Europe and the Arabs*, David McDowall argues for the necessity of getting the "ethics of Euro-Arab relations right" — something which, he says, demands "a reassessment of the basis of the relationship". McDowall's essay centres on an examination of how that relationship has evolved since the early 8th century when the Arabs conquered Spain.

He does not just chart the well known history of the relationship from the conquest of Spain through the Middle East, followed by independence and the ensuing uneasy decades. Indeed, in the space of this concise and well written essay, McDowall highlights many of the psychological dimensions of the relationship: "Medieval Christianity's insecurity facing the new religion: The crisis of self-confidence in the Middle East facing Europe's modern military and technological supremacy; European anxieties about the growth of culturally assertive Muslim immigrant communities in their countries; European double standards concerning Israel."

There may be nothing new in all this, but McDowall argues that, as events surrounding the Gulf War indicated, the past continues to inform present Euro-Arab relations, perpetuating mistrust if not mutual distaste. His contention is that conflict in the Middle East will continue as authoritarian Islamic movements continue to fight against equally authoritarian Arab governments, creating instability on Europe's doorstep. The European Community, he writes, cannot afford to ignore such a situation. Thus, he says, the Community, which already "interferes" in the Arab World by virtue of maintaining close political and economic ties with it, should alter the nature of its interference for the greater long-term "public interest" of both Arabs and Europeans.

If McDowall wants Europe to use its influence to bring

SPEEDY GONZALES ON THE JORDANIAN TRACK:

After the Arab delegations decided to extend their stay in Washington for another week, an envoy was sent back to Amman for instructions over the weekend. He got here fine but it was his trip back that definitely supports the old saying "when it rains, it pours." The Jordanian authorities were so concerned about getting Dr. Awn Khassawneh back in Washington in time for the talks that they took extensive measures to expedite his trip back. So he took the helicopter from the Royal Court in Amman to the airport, where he boarded a Royal Jordanian flight to London. In London he took the Concord supersonic flight to New York where he was to take a special small plane to Washington D.C. but that is where things began to go wrong. Dr. Khassawneh was advised to take the regular every-hour-on-the-hour shuttle between New York and Washington instead of the small flight which can be an exercise in stomach control for anyone. So Dr. Khassawneh obliged and took the shuttle from New York to Washington. After he boarded the flight, the attendants gave him a hard time over where he can be seated after which he decided to take the little plane after all. So, off he went, after a long procedure of retrieving his luggage. After boarding the little aeroplane, and just before arriving at Washington's national airport, the pilot received a weather advisory that the U.S. capital was under the influence of a severe thunderstorm. So the small plane stumbled and rumbled over the skies of Washington until the storm moved on. By the time the plane landed, there was a backload of people waiting in line for taxis. It took the better part of an hour for Dr. Khassawneh to get anywhere near the beginning of the line, when a car hit a passerby. That held up the movement of the line for another hour while ambulances came and went and the police completed their investigation. Finally, he got into a taxi and headed towards the hotel lying on the outskirts of Washington. When he arrived, he not only found out that someone here forgot to tell someone there that he was coming, but the hotel was also fully booked. So he was taken to another hotel where he was supposed to rest and change until a car came to take him to the State Department. The car did show up, the driver asked for Dr. Khassawneh only to be told that no such guest was staying at the hotel. By the time things were figured and worked out, Dr. Khassawneh was already late for the meeting that he and the government back here took such pains to get him to on time.

Nermeen Murad

Paul Adams

Commerce visibly picking up in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — A dozen goats that somehow scrambled atop a World War II-era tank at the capital's port are evidence of the slow resurgence of the impoverished country's commercial sector.

Up to 55,000 goats made the 350-kilometre trip from Belet Huen in the back of pickup trucks. On Tuesday, they waited to be loaded onto a ship heading to Saudi Arabia, where they will be slaughtered for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

It is the biggest export from Mogadishu since civil war and banditry brought shipping to a halt.

Before a U.S.-led military force arrived in December, the port was a looter's haven. But gradually, robbers and refugees have been forced out of the metal shipping containers where they lived and hid out.

With security back and the famine relief effort winding down, the ships have started to return.

"It's the busiest place in Somalia," said U.S. Staff Sergeant David Umbaugh, the harbour master for Mogadishu's busy port. "Hardly a day goes by that we don't have at least one major ship."

Perhaps even more important for a country that has become addicted to foreign aid, "people are starting to export. It's small, but it's a start."

Somalia's major exports are livestock and crops.

Goats are a traditional export to Saudi Arabia. As many as a half-million have been sent for previous Haj celebrations, and the 55,000 leaving here likely will be joined by shipments from northern ports such as Berbera and Bosaso.

Due to the strict agricultural requirements by international customs officials, a long goat run was erected, using shipping containers as walls.

Dozens of soldiers and aid workers were joined by U.N. special envoy Jonathan Howe in watching the controlled chaos

from several vantage points Tuesday.

The goats were forced up a steep gangplank to the El Cordeiro, where goat pens were waiting on deck. The animals would balk and try to turn around, but were eventually dragged on board. The operation continued during the night and was expected to take several days.

Other exports from the country's largest port in recent weeks have included some 3,000 tonnes of mostly watermelon, grapefruit and bananas to Italy, along with 25 tonnes of charcoal.

Most of the port traffic remains incoming, feeding the hungry and the markets filled with shoppers who feel increasingly confident that the bandits have been brought under control.

While many of the large ships carry relief supplies from international aid agencies, there's a steady stream of dhows that make the short run from Dubai with up to 500 tonnes of cargo.

The goods include mattresses, hardware, a few cars, repair parts, tyres, cigarettes and lots of spaghetti — evidence of Somalia's colonial past with Italy.

One ship was loaded with 30,000 sacks of concrete; some dhows have come in carrying nothing but house paint.

"When people start investing in the outside of their homes, they must be pretty confident," Sgt. Umbaugh said.

The port gradually is becoming a civilian operation. From a peak of 1,500 servicemen and women, fewer than 200 remain. Up to 1,500 Somalis, most of them stevedores, work on a busy day, unloading the ships by hand.

Representatives okay presence

Six months after the Marines landed in Somalia, the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday authorised the U.S. military presence there and sanctioned use of force by American troops participating in the U.N. peacekeeping mission.



An Algerian security unit patrols a street in Algiers in an armoured personnel carrier (AFP photo)

Algeria starts transition talks

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's collective presidency began a third round of talks with political groups Wednesday aimed at finding consensus to take the country back to democracy.

The five-man presidency took over in 1992 after cancellation of a general election in which Muslim fundamentalists had taken the lead.

Since then Algeria has been shaken by unrest and clamped under a state of emergency and has no parliament or set date for presidential or legislative elections.

The FLN and Al Nahda, and the Islamic Movement Hamas, want more moderate members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to be associated with moves to the transition.

The FIS, which dominated the first round of the cancelled elections, was banned last year and its militants are blamed for much of the violence in Algeria in the past 15 months.

Hamas, other parties, trade unions and associations are to meet the presidency later.

Algeria has issued international arrest warrants against a group

National Patriotic Rally also joined the talks.

Two secular parties, the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the most resolutely anti-Islamist group which joined earlier talks, and the Socialist Forces Front (SFF), are boycotting the talks.

The RCD refuses to sit with fundamentalists whom it wants barred from the talks, while the SFF was asked the army to take a direct part in the dialogue.

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Hamas, other parties, trade unions and associations are to meet the presidency later.

Algeria has issued international arrest warrants against a group

of Muslim fundamentalist fugitives wanted for violence and said to be living in Germany, a judicial source said Tuesday.

The source, quoted by the official news agency APS, said three of the fugitives were the sons of Abassi Madani, jailed leader of the FIS.

The brothers Salmane, Oussam and Ibbal were accused of helping set up an armed organisation, "Faithful to the Oath (Al Bakoun Ala Al Ahd), the agency said.

They are among 54 fundamentalists being tried — 26 in their absence — on charges of multiple acts of violence including the bombing last August of Algiers international airport in which nine people were killed.

The prosecutor has asked the Algiers special security court to sentence 15 accused to death.

The court, headed by judges who must not be named, adjourned Tuesday to consider its verdict.

APS said another arrest warrant was issued for Rabah Kebir, also said to be in Germany. Mr. Kebir was former head of the FIS political committee.

Saudis look for 'lost city'

BAHRAIN (AP) — Saudi Arabian archaeologists are trying to find a fabled lost city from the days of Biblical Queen Sheba, a leading Saudi archaeologist said Tuesday.

The kingdom only recently began efforts to dig up what is believed to be a wealth of relics of ancient civilisations beneath the sands of the city of Gerrha.

Gerrha had close links and similarities with Marib, the capital city of a civilisation that prevailed in what is present-day Yemen some 500-700 B.C., according to Abdullah Ben Saud Al Saud, assistant director-general of the Saudi Directorate of Antiquities and Museums.

Gerrha, he said, was at the end of the trade route and used to be one of the wealthiest cities on the Arabian Peninsula during that time. Queen Sheba is mentioned in the Old Testament for having called on King Solomon after hearing of his wisdom.

Greek and Roman historians recorded its wealth, describing it as "The White City" because of its buildings, and saying its doorways and handles were made of solid gold, he said.

"Finding the site is a dream for archaeologists," Mr. Ben Saud, himself an archaeologist, told reporters on the sidelines of a pan-Arab conference that is probing means of preserving the heritage of antiquities and historical locations in the Arab World.

"We know it is somewhere in the eastern region, near the Gulf coast. But where... exactly, this is the big question," he said.

He said international archaeological missions would be delighted, should they be invited to search for the city, but he added: "We want to find it ourselves."

Archaeological activities are rather recent in oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which sits on about 20 per cent of the world's proven reserves. They started only early 1976 with a comprehensive survey programme over the vast lands of the desert country.

"At the time, we at the department had little information about the archaeological sites in Saudi Arabia, which is almost a continent by itself," Mr. Ben Saud said.

The first step of the programme was to survey the expanse of the kingdom, which he estimated at two million square kilometres.

By 1985, and with the help of foreign experts, they had pinpointed 5,000 sites that ranged from the Stone Age until the Islamic period, which began 13 centuries ago.

"We found that Saudi Arabia is rich with archaeological sites," Mr. Ben Saud said.

When foreign travellers came to the peninsula in earlier years of this century, they described Saudi Arabia as only just a desert. Now, excavations carried out tell us something totally different."

Among the relics located were 900 tombs dating to the 50-century-old Dilmun civilisation, of which Bahrain claims to have been the centre. Mr. Ben Saud said that between 1983 and 1985, excavations were mounted to preserve about 100 of the tombs south of the oil capital city of Dhahran, but the rest were left to crumble under the spread of oil-fuelled urbanisation.

He said many threatened archaeological sites, especially those near development areas, have been fenced to prevent their destruction.

Rebels say Iran shells Iraqi Kurds

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian Kurdish rebel group said Iranian gunners shelled a dozen villages in Iraqi Kurdistan Wednesday, injuring 12 people including a one-year-old baby.

The Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) said its headquarters just inside Iraq Qala Diza, 320 kilometres north-east of Baghdad, came under heavy artillery attack over the past two days.

The shelling was extended to villages in the Darbandikhan region about 120 kilometres to the south on Wednesday, injuring 12 people including three women and a one-year-old baby and causing heavy material damage, the group said in a statement sent to Reuters from its Paris office.

The shelled Kurdish villages are to the north of an area where Iranian fighter-bombers attacked two bases of opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq guerrillas Tuesday.

Baghdad, which fought Tehran from 1980 to 1988, vowed to avenge the air raid which caused little damage and no casualties.

Tehran says both Mujahadeen and PDKI fighters stage raids on Iranian territory and it has the right to hit their bases in Iraq to stop such attacks.

The PDKI said earlier Iran started shelling its headquarters in April and moved into a 100-square kilometre area on Iraqi Kurdistan in early May to set up a "security zone."

New York blast suspect maintains his innocence

AMMAN — One of the suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing in New York insisted in an interview published Wednesday that he was innocent.

Mohammad Salameh, a 25-year-old Jordanian, of Palestinian origin, also denied he was a disciple of a radical Egyptian preacher, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is thought to be the suspected bombers' mentor.

"I am innocent of all charges that have been levelled against me," Mr. Salameh told the Arabic-language Al Shaab newspaper.

"The newspaper said Mr. Salameh was interviewed in his prison cell, but did not say when."

"I appeal to the American people to try their best to find out the real criminals," he said.

Mr. Salameh is one of six suspects arrested after the Feb. 26 bombing of the 110-storey twin towers. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 wounded in the explosion, said to be the worst ever on American soil. A seventh suspect is at large.

Mr. Salameh added: "Every-

body knows that the Israeli secret service, the Mossad, planned the tragedy at the World Trade Centre," he did not explain.

Mr. Salameh said he never met Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who preaches at a New Jersey mosque.

"I've never met Sheikh Omar face to face. But I have attended one of his sermons and I saw him from a distance. I also saw him on television several times."

"However, I would like to stress that I differ with Sheikh Abdul Rahman on many issues related to Islamic jurisprudence," said Mr. Salameh, a graduate in Islamic law.

Others suspected of the bombing are Mahmud Abouhalima, 33, from Egypt; Nidal Ayyad, 25, who appears as both a Jordanian and Lebanese in U.S. government documents; and Ahmad Ajaj, 27, a Palestinian, like Mr. Salameh, they are being held without bail.

The sixth, Ibrahim Al Gabrowny, 42, of Egypt, is held without bail on an obstruction of justice charge, and Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, an Iraqi, is a fugitive.

Controversial preacher quits banned Saudi group

DUBAI (R) — A controversial preacher was reported to have resigned Tuesday from Saudi Arabia's first human rights group after he was dismissed from his post at an Islamic institute and barred from preaching.

In a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, Sheikh Abdullah Ben Abdul Rahman Al Jibrin announced his resignation from the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), which has been declared illegal by Saudi religious leaders.

The government last week sacked all members of the organisation from their official positions.

The group, founded by six ultra-conservative religious figures, has said it was set up to defend preachers imprisoned for opposing the government's pro-Western policies and to challenge the credentials of the judicial system.

It is dismissed by Saudi officials as a group of fanatics who have no following within the kingdom.

Sheikh Abdullah, who was reported earlier making extremist remarks against Christians and Jews and declaring Muslim Shi'ites infidels, said that he did not learn of the CDLR until after it was formed.

"I will abide by what the guardian of Muslims has said against carrying out what will harm the general interest... and may God protect our guardians (King Fahd and the royal family)," he said in his statement.

Sheikh Abdullah also said he

disagreed with the work of Mohammad Al Masaari, the group's spokesman who was arrested last week and fired from his position as a university physics professor.

"His (Mohammad's) contacts with the foreign media is his own responsibility and that of those who agreed with him," said the sheikh.

Mohammad's father, CDLR Secretary Sheikh Abdullah Al Masaari, told Reuters that his son was arrested for violating a pledge to cut contacts with the Western media.

"But he never made such a pledge," he said.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Masaari, a lawyer and former head of Saudi Arabia's Diwan Al Mazalim, the equivalent of an ombudsman, added that the group would continue to hold meetings.

"We shall try and try again to convince the authorities of our good intentions and the legitimacy of our group... we shall continue to meet in my house or the house of any of the other members," he said.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, one of King Fahd's brothers, earlier this week attacked the Western media for criticising its human rights record.

He told a news conference Monday that the Western media had malicious aims against the Arab World and against Saudi Arabia in particular, where he said simple events were exaggerated.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif et Hercule
17:45 Superchamps
18:15 L'école des fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 Azimuts
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
21:10 Quantum Leap
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "The Riddle of the Sphinx"

PRAYER TIMES

03:56 Fajr
05:28 (Sunrise) Dhahar
12:33 Dhahar
16:13 Asr
19:37 Maghreb
21:09 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatfah Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637485
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441.
De la Sable Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624228.
Quantum Leap

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 15 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 35
Deserts 13 / 31
Jordan Valley 20 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 20 per

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192. 621111. 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 661176
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 775197
Dr. Salah Al 'Ussoud 649028
Dr. Youssef Nasser 751144
Dr. Riza Abu Zaina 894255
Fine pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBBID:
Dr. Af Al Omani (-)
Al Ouds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Omani (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khale Maternity, J. Amn 644412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 645262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmiciani 664171/4
Shmiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 893245
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajra 77101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/26
Army, Marj 891611/26
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Ainal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IBBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)753535

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:15 Suma (RJ)
06:15 Riyadh (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
06:45 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
06:45 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
17:25 Laraca (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SU)
16:55 Rome (AZ)
18:00 Dubai (EM)
21:45 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:05 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Paris (RJ)
13:00 Damascus (RJ)
13:05 Laraca, Athens (RJ)
13:15 Damascus (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 Muscat (RJ)
01:00 Dubai (RJ)
01:00 Cairo (MS)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:05 Laraca (CY)
09:15 Beirut (ME)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Shamir visits France, says Likud little changed

PARIS (R) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview published Wednesday his Likud Party stuck to the principle of safeguarding the country's borders from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. Mr. Shamir, visiting France at the invitation of local Likud supporters, told the newspaper Le Figaro his party had changed little since he took office. "It (the party) has changed style. But it has not changed basic principles," Mr. Shamir was quoted as saying. "The basic principle is the safeguarding of the borders of Israel from the Mediterranean to the Jordan. That is the vital minimum because Israel is a tiny state. "What would remain if it was amputated of such important areas as the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza." Questioned on proposals aired in Israel that the volatile Gaza Strip should be rapidly awarded autonomy, Mr. Shamir replied: "I do not see any difference between Gaza and Judea and Samaria, Israeli-given name to the West Bank." He said the solution for Gaza's problems was to dismantle refugee camps there and resettle their inhabitants on the spot with funds from Western and Arab states. Le Figaro said Mr. Shamir had met Gaullist leaders Jacques Chirac and Philippe Seguin during his visit.

Khartoum says Sudan will stick to ceasefire

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's government said it would stick to a ceasefire despite rebels breaking the truce, a Sudanese newspaper reported Wednesday. But government forces would retaliate "two blows for one" if attacked, Sudanese army spokesman Major-General Mohammad Abdulla Oweideh told the paper Al Khartoum, published in Cairo. On Sunday, the Khartoum government accused the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army of breaking the ceasefire, in force since March, with three separate attacks. The rebels denied the charge, accusing Khartoum of making the claims to justify a planned offensive to end the 10-year-old civil war which has killed about half a million people and displaced up to three million southern Sudanese. Peace talks were adjourned last week after a month of apparently fruitless negotiations.

Turkey frees detained British journalist

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Authorities released a British journalist Tuesday he had been detained for 10 days after crossing to Turkey from Iraqi Kurdistan northern Iraq, the Anatolia news agency said. The semi-official agency identified the Briton earlier as Andrew Norman Penny, 39, a freelance journalist. Mr. Penny and Turkish reporter Faik Bulut of the pro-Kurdish newspaper Ozgur Gundem were taken under custody for allegedly being in possession of illegal Turkish-Kurdish documents and video tapes on May 15. Mr. Penny was formally arrested on May 17 while the authorities released Faik Bulut on the same day. A Turkish court last April 28 sentenced a German journalist, identified as Stefan Waldburg, to 45 months in jail for working as a messenger for Turkey's illegal Kurdish organisation, the German embassy spokesman said at that time. Turkish and German officials agreed to reconsider the case of Mr. Waldburg during the visit of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last week. Another German reporter, Michael Enger for the German television ZDF, was taken into custody last November under the same circumstances, but the authorities set him free a day later.

Pentagon awarding medal for service in Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — All U.S. military forces who served in Somalia as part of the humanitarian relief effort Operation Restore Hope will receive a special armed forces expeditionary medal, the Pentagon announced Tuesday. U.S. Marines went ashore at Mogadishu on Dec. 9, 1992, to begin the operation. The effort was transferred to United Nations peacekeepers on May 4 after U.S. and allied forces restored enough order in the country to permit the transport of food and medical supplies to starving Somalis. At its peak in January, Operation Restore Hope totalled about 25,800 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. In a related development, the Pentagon announced that Marine Corps Lieutenant-General Robert B. Johnston, who commanded all U.S. forces in Somalia, has been assigned as deputy chief of staff for manpower and reserve affairs at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington. Replacing Gen. Johnston in his position as commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force will be Lt.-Gen. George R. Christmas, now director of operations at the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii.

Radical students denounce Iran's Gulf policy

TEHRAN (R) — Radical students staged a protest meeting at Tehran University Tuesday against Iran's warming ties with Saudi Arabia. Witnesses said a group of students gathered at the university mosque to denounce the Foreign Ministry's "negligent" policies, including overtures to Iran's main Islamic and regional rival Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is currently visiting six Gulf Arab states. The students denounced Saudi King Fahd as a "

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Pity the oppressed

IRAN AND Iraq seem to agree on one thing only: making the lives of the Arab and Muslim peoples in the Gulf region, including theirs, extremely miserable. That is sad. Both countries are predominantly Muslim Shiite. Both ostensibly carry the banner of Third World resistance against superpower hegemony. Between them they command huge human and natural resources. Yet, over the last 15 years, the two squandered hundreds of billions of dollars in their drive to destroy each other while creating hatred and animosity between Arabs and Persians. And all along, even before the days of the late shah or the present regime in Iraq, both were used by their declared common enemy, the West, to destroy each other. During the days of the shah, both Iran and the U.S. armed a Kurdish resurgence in northern Iraq that for so many years drained Iraq's energy. And after the triumph of the Iranian clergy in 1979, the West encouraged then aided Iraq to wage war against Iran, a war that resulted in extensive destruction of both countries and death among their peoples. And when neither of the two were able to break the back of the other, they turned onto hapless neighbours.

Iraq invaded Kuwait and Iran took over the disputed islands in the Gulf. While Kuwait, precious as it is, was saved by a coalition led by the West, the islands in the Gulf, neither internationally strategic nor dotted with oil fields, were not, from a Western point of view, worth the effort. Yet, despite Iraq's total destruction and Iran's near total isolation, the two are still at each other's throat. On Tuesday the Iranians chose to hit the Iranian dissident group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq bases in Iraq promoting Iraq to send reinforcements to the borders with its neighbour. Whether Iran intends to hit Mujahedeen-e-Khalq or take advantage of Iraq's weakness and drag it into renewed fighting is yet to be seen. Each might think that the present regional and international circumstances might play to its advantage. Iran might want to take advantage of Iraq's weakness and its engagement on different fronts and Iraq might think renewed fighting with Iran would change its standing with the Gulf Arabs, Saudi Arabia and the West. Meanwhile, Iraqis and Iranians will continue to suffer and wait fatefully for what lies ahead. That is sad too. For by the time Iraq fulfilled its ambition of becoming the leader of the Arab World or Iran its dream of becoming the leader of the Muslim World, huge wealth will have been wasted and a great numbers of lives lost.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Wednesday paid tribute to President Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for his criticism of Israeli atrocities, the killing of children, the demolition of Arab homes and the siege imposed on Arab inhabitants with the purpose of starving them. The growing number of children killed or wounded by the Israeli troops since the start of the current year has appalled the ICRC, especially as the Israeli repression and the criminal actions are increasing in intensity against the young people, said the paper. We wonder why UNICEF and other organisations and human rights groups have kept silent over these atrocities, and we wonder why the world community continues to ignore the fact that the Palestinians are being killed in the process of trying to win freedom, said the daily. We highly value the ICRC president's criticism of Israel's malpractices and his call on the Israeli government to respect the provisions of the Geneva conventions concerning the civilian population under occupation, the paper added. We also call on UNICEF and other world human rights organisations to join the ICRC in its criticism of Israel's actions and firm stand in the face of continued Israeli atrocities, especially those committed against the Palestinian children.

FAHED AL FANEK a columnist in Al Ra'i daily once again tackled the sales tax issue, noting that delay in imposing the sales tax law was bound to adversely affect the national economy. A number of political parties' newspapers rejoined over a government decision to temporarily postpone the imposition of the sales tax, said the writer. No one has yet presented a really logical study of the sales tax and most newspapers opted for exaggerating the whole issue claiming that the sales tax would be added to the consumer tax, said the writer. In fact, the sales tax is a substitute of the consumer tax imposed on at least 70 per cent of all commodities, he pointed out. The rest of the commodities, especially the luxury goods, will have an additional tax, but the limited-income groups will by no means be affected by the sales tax, added the writer. The party newspaper did not present to the public the facts about the sales tax, simply because no detailed and scientific study has been done to expound it, said Faneck. Further more, the sales law provides up to 50 per cent additional protection to the local industries.

New plan is good news for Serb nationalists

By Slobodan Lekic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — A new plan for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina drawn up by the United States and four European countries is some of the best news Serb nationalists have had in 13 months of war.

By concentrating on quick measures to end the fighting in Bosnia and leaving a political solution for the future, it likely will give Serbs something similar to what they won fighting in Croatia in 1991: de facto control of conquered territory and effective veto power over any changes.

The new formula, announced Saturday by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher after talks with the foreign minister of Russia, Britain, France and Spain, calls for safe areas to be set up to protect Bosnian Muslims.

It provides for placing monitors along Bosnia's border with Serb-dominated Yugoslavia to stem the flow of supplies to Bosnian Serbs — and, hopefully, induce them to withdraw from predominantly Muslim regions they now hold.

But no one is going to make the Bosnian Serbs withdraw. The plan excludes the use of military force, and prevents the lifting of the international arms embargo that mainly hurts their enemy — the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

ment.

And the Bosnian Serbs show no sign of giving up what they've captured. Rather, they see the latest pronouncements from Washington as a vindication of their plans to divide the republic. The plan virtually assures them of continued control of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they now hold.

Rebellious Serbs were in control of a third of Croatia in early January 1992 when U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance's peace plan went into effect there.

A shaky ceasefire took hold, and the Yugoslav army withdrew from Serb-controlled territory. But further steps, including disarming militias and returning tens of thousands of refugees, have been blocked by the Serbs, who have proclaimed their own state. The Croatian army is not strong enough to take back the land.

Almost a year and a half later, Serbs and Croats glower at each other past thousands of U.N. peacekeepers caught in the middle and trying to prevent new fighting.

U.N. officials complain they have been left dangling by the international community, which has paid scant attention to the Croatian quagmire since fierce fighting stopped.

The Serbs apparently hope that the Washington plan will effectively cement Serb conquests in Bosnia in much the same way.

Bosnian Serbs, too, have proclaimed their own state with their own borders.

Just as Croatia's Serbs insist they cannot live under the Croatian government, Bosnia's Serbs demand that they be separated from that republic's Muslims and Croats.

The latest plan has been greeted favourably by top Bosnian Serb officials.

Radovan Karadzic, president of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic, said his side would support it because "it ensures the respect of our sovereignty."

Mr. Karadzic has said that the Serbs would not accept an outside international military force because it would violate that sovereignty, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

"It appears the world has finally understood that Bosnia has to be divided in order for lasting peace to be achieved," declared Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament.

The Washington plan insists on eventual acceptance by the Serbs of the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia, which divides it into 10 provinces largely on an ethnic basis.

It also refuses to permit separate Serb borders or a corridor linking Serbia, the dominant republic in Yugoslavia, to Serb-controlled territory in western Bosnia and Croatia.

But it relies only on continuing sanctions against Yugoslavia to achieve these aims.

Both Bosnian Serbs and Yugoslavia oppose putting international monitors on their border.

With Serb-held territories in Bosnia mostly emptied of Muslims, such monitors would hinder the century-old nationalist dream of creating a "greater Serbia."

It remains unclear how much longer Yugoslavia, whose economy has been pushed even closer to collapse by the U.N. sanctions imposed against it last year, can afford to defy the international community on the monitors issue.

But additional measures to force Yugoslavia and the Bosnian Serbs to relent will probably backfire. Many Serbs are willing to endure economic hardships and believe the world will yield before their determined resistance.

Bosnian Serb hardliners and their supporters in Serbia have already been greatly buoyed by the speed with which the international community dropped military threats against them after they rejected the Vance-Owen plan.

A pledge by the U.S. to use force to protect the safe havens is privately dismissed here as an empty gesture. Bosnian Serb military leaders repeatedly stress they are not interested in gaining new ground.

Democracy: A prerequisite for peace

By Lu'ayy M. Rimawi

TALKS between Israelis and Arabs should continue. Both have justifiable claims and grievances, and it is not conducive to peace to lay the blame exclusively on one side or the other. The futile idea of one "obliterating" the other has become, in modern civilised norms, simply obsolete. A better understanding of the profound problems, often exacerbated by distorted perceptions, is still vital. Needless to say, the national aspirations of Palestinians and Israelis have to be mutually recognised.

Without the democratisation of the Arab World, however, no radically changed image of the Israelis will ever be created in the Arab mind. Arab peoples will always be vulnerable to demagogic propaganda and, consequently, deprived of new perceptions. Regrettably, through its flouting of international law and disregard for Arab human rights in the occupied territories and Lebanon, Israel has given much credence to such propaganda. Neither are western policies in the region exempt. In view of the post-Gulf war regional balance of power, the effects of recent American ultimatums to disentangle itself from the peace process could not have been anything but harmful.

Some have argued that not only have recent attempts at democratisation in the Arab World failed, such attempts also helped fundamentalism become legitimate. Moreover, they also maintain that it is safer to strike peace accords with dictators. They substantiate such arguments by citing the peacefulness of the Syrian-Israeli borders, and question why it would not be possible to make permanent peace on similar grounds.

The pitfalls of such an argument are manifold. The fickleness of dictatorships has long been recognised. And if repressive regimes cannot grant peace to their own peoples, how can they be expected to bring peace to a whole region? The vexed question of how truly Arab dictatorships represent Arab peoples has still to be addressed. So has the question of whether posterity will uphold the "commitments" of authoritarian regimes. It is also unrealistic to expect Arab majorities to become perceptive to making peace with Israel overnight.

As a corollary, peace in this context can only be maintained through continuous oppression. But is this the peace we all seek? The interconnectedness between democracy and peace in the Middle East can only be overlooked either by myopics or those who have a vested interest in preserving the status quo. Peace and political reforms in the Arab World must go hand in hand, not the former without the latter. Arabs, however, are not congenitally fundamentalists. As a universal and monotheistic religion, Islam advocates tolerance and egalitarianism. But in times of social vacuum and political repression, religion becomes easily manipulable to serve non-religious ends. Islam is no exception. Although it may indeed be prevalent throughout the Arab World, "fundamentalism", as a contemporary phenomenon, is no more than a crude manifestation of protest and displeasure. The bulk of its subscribers come from underprivileged and non-elitist

groups who have been disillusioned with the present political and social indifference.

Arabs and Muslims have unjustly been stigmatised with militancy and terrorism. The majority of Arabs are, until this very day, still suffering under the yoke of brutal dictatorships and autocratic regimes. It is not surprising therefore that many hapless Arab citizens are left with very few rational options. This fact is overlooked by many westerners when trying to understand some of the current traits of Arab behaviour. It is really farcical that a convenient euphemism such as "moderate" Arab regimes is used in western media when referring to docile Arab dictatorships!

The freedom of the Arab peoples within democratic societies is central to a comprehensive settlement in the region, and only through their enlightened choice and commitment can genuine peace have a chance. Given the wealth of the Arab World, coupled with the special bonds between its peoples, democracy will improve Arab peoples' lives. It will undoubtedly undermine fundamentalism and emasculate its present vigour. In such an event, most of the Arab peoples' grievances will have been redressed and "extremists" will no longer find it easy to sway the opinions of Arab masses.

It is the Arab peoples that we should be investing in. It is they that will uphold future peace commitments. His Majesty King Hussein has sagaciously observed that "democracy does not consist merely of institutions. It is a tradition and a way of life that characterises society." The concluding remarks of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address to the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference at the University of St. Andrews on July 9, 1992, are most enlightening: "Change in the Middle East must be gradual and sensitive to the political, cultural and social needs of the population. It must develop organically, and not be imported wholesale, with the will to change coming at once from above and below. Arab society must grow towards political democracy, evolving both the mechanisms and the spirit of liberal democracy."

For its part, Jordan has made substantial and commendable steps in a positive direction. This includes the granting of universal suffrage, more liberal press, the right of Jordanians to join political parties and above all the ratification of Jordan's National Charter in 1990, which "embodies the democratic values to which Jordan, people and leadership, is committed," as Prince Hassan said to the British Society conference. Admittedly, democracy in the Arab World is by its very nature an arduous task. Fully-fledged democracies, however, cannot be built overnight and sometimes ambition has to be tempered with realism. But although democracy is a very elusive concept, history has taught us that it is by no means meaningless or unachievable.

The writer is an M.Sc. student in International Relations at the London School of Economics. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Parish problems

To the Editor:

A few days ago a Swedish friend of mine came from Amman and brought with him a copy of the Jordan Times. I was quite happy to see it since we rarely get an opportunity to enjoy reading your press here. It contained a small from our second home, our beloved Jordan. However, as a Lutheran Christian, I was sad to read an article relating to the Lutheran congregation in Amman ("A congregation without a church," Jordan Times, May 20/21, 1993).

I have followed the news of the Amman congregation with sorrow and pain. In fact, I have been aware of the trouble from the very beginning and I have known the person concerned since the days prior to his going to Amman. And despite my strong objection to smearing or doing harm to anybody's reputation, I must say that your article was not accurate; it was completely one-sided.

Neither I nor anyone from my family is employed by the Lutheran Church and I have no personal interests whatsoever. In fact I have been, by and large, critical of this church's behaviour and for good reasons. Almost all my friends feel the same as I do. All that I am saying now is that I wish you had collected objective information before publishing such an article. By consulting different individuals of independent judgment, I am sure you would reach different conclusions.

Issa S. Sarraa,
P.O. Box 19011,
Jerusalem.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Verdict reminds Japanese of America's dark side

By Peter Landers
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's idealised view of the American lifestyle was severely shaken by the not-guilty verdict awarded to a Louisiana man who killed a Japanese exchange student.

Although Japanese society has become much like America's in many respects, Rodney Pear's acquittal was a stark reminder of how remote Japan is from the American tradition of individualism, and its darker side of violence.

Many Japanese, accustomed to their own mostly gunless and crime-free society, cannot understand the American insistence on the right to bear arms.

"Americans seem to think they can solve anything with a gun. Why don't they just stop using them? And who says you need to use a gun in order to be free?" asked Akira Murakami, a Tokyo office worker.

Japanese commentators have urged enactment of stricter gun controls in the United States, saying the defensive mindset of Louisiana citizens who defended Rodney Pear for shooting 16-year-old Yoshihiro Hattori defied their understanding.

The acquittal, reported early Monday morning Japan time, has since dominated public commentary and the news.

Japanese television programmes from Baton Rouge showed interviews with average people

who said Mr. Pearls had a right fire when Hattori, on his way to a Halloween party, mistakenly approached Mr. Pearls' house and apparently misunderstood his command to "freeze."

"More than anything else, we are surprised at the depth of Americans' faith in guns," said the nation's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri.

Mr. Pearls was found innocent Sunday of manslaughter in the shooting last Oct. 17.

Hattori's killing has reinforced the Japanese stereotype of a United States still trapped in the days of the wild west and universally plagued by guns and violence.

Americans living in Japan are sometimes asked if they own guns, even though it is illegal in most cases to possess them there. Ownership of rifles for sports competitions and hunting is strictly regulated.

"Ever since the 'sword hunt' of (16th century military dictator) Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the popular masses in Japan have abandoned weapons and ensured their security by relying on their superiors," wrote the financial daily Nihon Keizai, referring to Hideyoshi's order for all Japanese except for samurai elites to hand over their swords to the government.

"In America, the right of owning guns is recognised, and the spirit of the west — defend your-

self with your own hands — still lives," the Nihon Keizai said. "Even as Americans shudder from crime and worsening law and order, the verdict was an honest reflection of their mindset."

Violent American movies like "Rambo" or "Die Hard" aired on Japanese television have reinforced that impression.

Ironically, those movies also are partly responsible for glamorising the American lifestyle and attracting young people like Hattori to come to the United States for study.

According to Education Ministry figures, 76,023 people went to the United States for study or training in 1992, or 58 per cent of the world total. Of the 4,483 Japanese high school students on study-abroad programmes in 1990, 71 per cent went to the United States.

For people who share so much of the same modern cultural background — Hattori was wearing a John Travolta costume when he was shot — the very real differences between the two societies came as a shock.

Newspapers struggled, for instance, to explain the 2nd amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right to bear arms. The Mainichi Shimbun noted that the amendment was designed in the 18th century

to allow citizens to protect themselves against oppressive governments.

Japan, which was ruled by military dictators called shoguns until the mid-nineteenth century, has no tradition of laws or customs to protect individual rights. Many modern freedoms came only with a U.S.-inspired constitution enacted after Japan's defeat in World War II.

Although Japan does have its own problems of social violence, strict gun control has limited the amount of damage violent individuals can do.

"I've realised again that the Japanese and American views of security are completely different," said Yasunori Abe, a professor at Showa Women's University and former Washington bureau chief for a Japanese newspaper.

In a letter printed in the Mainichi, Hattori's mother, Mieko, had a harsher judgement. "I cannot help but think that a society in which an innocent boy is killed by mistake and the person who killed him is found not guilty is sick."

She said she wants to get two million signatures on a petition already signed by 1.65 million Japanese calling for stricter gun control and hand it to President Bill Clinton on Nov. 22, which would have been her son's 18th birthday.

Jordanians and the PC

By Jean-Claude Elias

The personal computer (PC) craze is a worldwide epidemic. There is hardly a place or country on earth that is not affected by this phenomenon. Are the symptoms the same from east to west, north to south? Do people react the same way or make the same use of the PC? What is the attitude of the typical PC user in Jordan?

Technology transfer works at very high speed and PCs are made available to the public almost at the same time in New York, London or Amman. Jordanians know about any new release through the same specialised magazines as the French or the Australians and virtually at the same time. Since there are no restrictions on PC exports to the Kingdom, the latest machines are on the market in Amman at the same time they are in any other major capital city in the world.

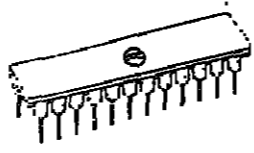
Jordanians, whether students, traders, businessmen, employees or executives, have the same appetite for PCs as Singaporeans, Italians or Canadians. The relatively low customs duties, 16 per cent at present, and the absence of value added or direct sales tax — for the time being at least — make a PC affordable to most active citizens. Some computer distributors offer credit payment facilities for as little as JD 25 a month.

Jordanians replace their PC with a new one every five and a half years. This is considered very reasonable and comparable to European statistics. In Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and the United States, where the computer industry mainly is, the replacement rate is only four years. In Singapore for instance, the PC has become so common that children as young as 10 or 13, can rent a PC for a few minutes after they finish school in the evening, to play games, do some programming or even make their calculations. If this has not yet been seen in Jordan, most schools already have a computer programme and are equipped with PCs.

Contrary to the trend in the Gulf area and Saudi Arabia where the high per capita income makes buying a PC a painless and instant operation, Jordanians, more particularly the young, have to do their homework first. They cannot afford to make mistakes. They compare specifications, prices, the reputation of the dealer for after sales service and only then do they make their purchase decision.

The Jordan Computer Society estimates that an average of 4,000 PCs are yearly sold in Jordan by 150 distributors-retailers. Somehow, only 45 of these companies are officially accepted and registered with the society.

chip talk



The applications that Jordanians love to implement on their PCs are the standard ones: Word processing, spreadsheets, databases and of course, games. Recently, sound and image processing — multimedia — has started to invade the homes of the PC users. However, the wide spread availability of pirated software make the typical user jump from one programme, or one version, to another without justification — "since we don't have to pay for it, let's try it" they seem to say.

Many users keep on their PC's hard disk two or three word processors and a couple of different versions of each, just because it's free. All these programmes do exactly the same thing, though in a slightly different way. In the end the user is the loser, for he or she doesn't have time to really master and be really efficient on all of these programmes. Those who pay for an original software — programme — tend to learn it and therefore use it much better.

Another aspect of the country's interest in computers is in the attempts to build up a computer industry. Although none can be qualified as successful yet, several dynamic businessmen have set up companies that assemble PCs. Whether it can be considered an industry remains to be seen. It could however prove to be the first step towards a real industry in the future.

Jordanian manufacturers should nevertheless remember that only a very limited number of countries actually manufacture computers, and an even smaller number can claim to design and produce the computer's main chip: The micro-processor.

The only obvious, though limited, computer industry success story in Jordan is probably the Ameer Arabisation card, fully designed and manufactured by Sedco in Amman. They have exported large quantities of the exclusive board to all Arab countries, and have improved the original design three or four times in just six years. An example to follow.

The door of hope and Samson's agonies

By E. Yaghi

He was not a prophet nor did he pretend to be, but he had prophetic visions. One spring evening when his dreams were wearing thin, a dark cloud suddenly appeared and nearly blotted out the moon. Then he realised that the black swirling mass was not a cloud after all, but a gigantic flock of blackbirds returning to their nests to settle for the day. Samson lingered by the window of his stone house until way after they had disappeared and when long after the rest of his family settled down to sleep, he began his vigil of solitude kept company only by the sounds of a cartage every now and then and winds which whispered to deserted passageways. At last, when all the village lay slumbering, and he grew weary of his loneliness he turned to a corner of the shadowed room and knocked on a door called Hope. As he entered, he was greeted by a beam of light which descended from the ceiling like a ladder and he knew that here in this halo of the sanctuary of his mind, at last he could bare his pain to the only one who would listen to his complaints and not reveal his secrets. He wandered in this zone which transcended mortal barriers of time and space to a fertile land where rivers flowed, green grasses grew and red poppies like a sea of colour waved in the heavenly sun which shined not too hot and never too cold, but just right in a temperate climate where pain and agony did not exist.

He bowed his head with the cropped hair and prayed: "Oh, my God have I lost my strength? I beg you to give me courage, hope and patience to carry the burdens that feel like the weight of the world!"

He wanted to remain near a cool river which ran in the centre of his conscious. The room smelled sweet like ambrosia and his nerves felt soothed and calm. Here, he was at peace with all, and no human cares crept in to disturb his inner sanctum.

"This room is my place of worship and it is a paradise to me, yet, something pulls me back to the outer rooms of my abode. What is it? I am in no hurry, yet I feel compelled to leave."

So, he reluctantly exited out of his heavenly chamber where his eyes fell on a gilded parchment transcribed by one of his followers who was an artist with his quilled pen.

Samson ran his fingers over the precious transcription and sat down to dwell once more on the validity of the words inscribed therein. It was advice he felt worthy and as soon as morning broke, he knew he must share the wisdom with his small children and his wife. He raised his voice which was not a prophet's voice but sounded almost angelic to read:

"Be aware of the noble man if you insult him." (You may be surprised at his reaction and discover that he is not so noble).

"Be aware of the wise man if you annoy him." (He may turn out to be not so wise).

"Be aware of the sordid if you honour, and respect him." (For he does not deserve honour or respect and may do you harm).

"Be aware of the fool if you joke with him." (He may make you the fool).

"Be aware of the unchaste if you become his friend," (for his impurity may pollute your character and you will become like him).

It was like a sermon. Samson stopped reading and then as if remembering, he began to speak again. "In my life I have tasted the most dainty morsels but could find none more delicious than health."

"I have tasted all bitterness and I could not find more bitter than to be in need of others."

He continued to talk to the solitude of his home, still clutching the dry parchment. "Be informed that lifetime is two days, one day in your favour and one day against you. When the day is in your favour, do not take the good things for granted, and when the day is not in your favour, be patient, for both the good day and the bad will disappear."

Had he been blinded? Had the columns tumbled down about him when he had stood chained to the forum? Was he to perish buried beneath the rubble he had brought down? But he felt at peace at last. The huge burden that he had carried on his shoulders had eased now and yes, he could see and he was strong once again. He had sought strength in his God and been answered. He had knocked on the door of Hope and entered. His prophetic vision was there on the temple floor for all to see, promising a better and brighter tomorrow in a land of Samson's dreams where betrayal and Delilah were a thing of the past.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 27

8:30 Coach

Hayden buys a wedding ring for his girlfriend Christine on Christmas.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Blind Faith

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Riddle of the Stinson

Starring: Jack Thompson

Bernard O'Reilly, a farmer and a hero, decides to start a search on his own after everyone else gives up. He succeeds in locating the survivors and bringing them back to safety.

Friday, May 28

8:30 AIF

9:10 E.N.G.

Payment In Kind

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner



Nigel Havers (left) and Keith Barron in the Good Guys Sunday at 9:10

Saturday, May 29

8:30 Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes

9:00 Not Another Science Show

An interesting light science show on sound recording on records, magnetic tapes and the digital compact disc.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Nothing Personal

Starring: Bruce Dern and Amanda Donohoe

Sunday, May 30

8:30 Executive Stress

Caroline suggests having a kindergarten for the employee's children. Her husband disagrees.

9:10 The Good Guys

All For Love

The two guys venture into Southall, where MacFadyen

The Intern

Barbara, a beautiful college girl, comes to practice at the senator's office.

9:10 Documentary — North Of The Yukon

Lorne Green, the famous actor, tells the life story of the people who live in the north of the Yukon, and their struggle through life.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Feature Film

Tuesday, June 1

8:30 Beadles About

9:10 Forever Green

Jack, Harriett and the children, are totally devoted to community work, saving foxes and building a community centre.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Bride In Black

Wednesday, June 2

8:30 Chance In A Million

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 Voyager

10:00 News In English

10:20 Golden Fiddles

The story of the Balfour family who struggle through life just to make ends meet and find their luck changes.

Monday, May 31

8:30 The Powers That Be

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

A friend is, one might say, a second self
Cicero, Roman statesman 106 B.C.-43 B.C.).

Marriage always demands the greatest understanding of the art of insincerity possible between two human beings
— Vicki Baum, Austrian-American writer-playwright (1888-1960).

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe
— H.G. Wells, English writer-historian (1866-1946).

An honest man is the noblest work of God
— Alexander Pope, English poet (1688-1744).

Diligence is the mother of good fortune
— Miguel De Cervantes, Spanish novelist (1547-1616).

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

CAPITALS JERUSALEM

- Capital of Occupied Palestine.
- A strong place built on four hills, 2,000 ft above the Mediterranean.
- Enclosed with walls and protected nearly all round by deep valleys.
- Seven gates pierce the old wall, within which are still to be found the ancient narrow streets and bazaars of the Old City.
- Has been so often besieged, destroyed and rebuilt.
- By 1400 B.C. Jerusalem was ruled by a king subject to Egypt.
- Nebukhadnezzar captured Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and deported its inhabitants.
- In 36 B.C. Pompey captured Jerusalem. The city was conquered by Muslims in 637; taken by the crusaders in 1099 and recaptured by Saladin in 1187.
- A Holy City for 3 faiths: Muslim, Christian and Jewish.
- Important places of note: Al Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, the Mount of Olives, the Walling Wall, the Tomb of David, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Crusaders' Church, etc.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- A Swedish lad scored all the 272 points for his team.
- An American designed a garb for warming the head that would make its wearer "think faster and clearer".
- An Italian woman, before reaching 38 years of age, gave birth to 52 babies: 13 of them twins, triplets and quadruplets.
- In 1855, spoons and forks made of aluminum were sold at a higher price than those made of gold.
- William Henry Harrison served the shortest term of any American president — one month.
- Sixty days are required for a housefly to become a great grandmother.

HAPPY DREAMS

KILLING: If you dreamed about killing someone, whether intentionally or by accident, it signifies a period of severe emotional stress during which you must make a heroic effort to control your temper. To dream of being a witness to a killing portends a change which will not be entirely to your liking. A dream of seeing others kill insects or animals prophesies help from friendly sources, but to dream of killing them yourself predicts that you will overcome your obstacles through your own efforts.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEATH: If you dreamed of being dead yourself, it indicates an approaching release from all your worries and/or a recovery from illness. If you spoke with someone who is dead, you will soon hear very good news. To dream of a death frequently signifies news of a birth. To be ware of a dead person you cannot identify portends an inheritance which may not be personal but could be indirectly beneficial.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE LASER

- Acronym for "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation."
- An instrument producing coherent light in intense focused beam.
- First built in 1960.
- Lasers are widely used in industry, medicine (ex: for delicate eye operations), communications (ex: carrying

vast amount of information by fibre optics) and scientific research.

- The power of laser beams make lasers useful for cutting and welding with great precision.
- Compact disc and video disc players contain a laser to play sound and video recordings.
- Powerful computers use lasers to store and print information.
- A laser printer is a printer that is connected to a computer and produces words or pictures that are extremely clear, by using laser light.
- Also called optical maser (Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation).

TIME FOR FUN

PERPLEXED: "Darn it. Two girls are in love with me. The one I love is beautiful, but poor. The other is a well-to-do widow."

ADVISER: "And you want to know what to do?"

PERPLEXED: "Yes. Which one should I marry?"

ADVISER: "True love is something you will never regret. I'd suggest you marry the one you love."

PERPLEXED: "Yes. I think I will."

ADVISER: "By the way, do you have the widow's address handy?"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HE: "They tell me Colonel Lively is a sexagenarian."

SHE: "The old fool; and at his age, too!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

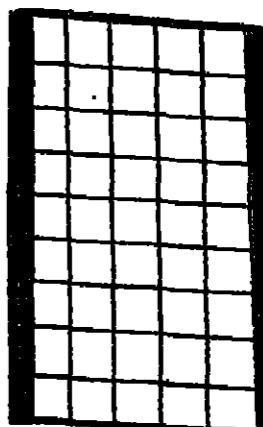
A youth in his teens strode into a barbershop, frowned at the long line of men waiting to be served, then demanded imperiously, "how long will I have to wait for a shave?" The barber looked closely and figured, "about six months, I guess."

PUZZLES

(A) Here is one of the film fans. Answer the NINE clues with the surnames of well-known stars.

If they are correct, a famous family name of stage and screen will be revealed by reading the middle letters from top to bottom.

1. Architectural feature
2. Concede
3. Guiding star
4. Month
5. Direction follows course
6. Numeral letters are
7. Blossom
8. Leaves the car
9. Knife-sharpening rod



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) Do it in a minute, please!
Using the figure (9) three times, together with a minus sign, how could you represent the number 1?

Holly Hunter triumphs at Cannes without saying a word

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuters

CANNES — It's not often an actress will fight tooth and nail for a part without any dialogue.

But then there's nothing particularly unusual about Holly Hunter's role in *The Piano*, Jane Campion's period drama hotly tipped for Cannes' top Golden Palm Award.

Hunter plays Ada, a mute Scottish woman married off to a 19th century land speculator in New Zealand.

Her passions and contradictions have to be communicated through gestures, written words and — above all — the music of her piano.

For Hunter, previously best known for her highly talkative role as a television journalist in *Broadcast News*, it was the part of a lifetime.

"I wanted it so badly I felt I would do anything at all to get it," the American actress said in an interview. "There was an exquisite quality to the script, although the challenges were quite daunting."

After reading Campion's original screenplay, Hunter sent the director a 30-minute tape of her piano playing. By happy coincidence she had just taken up the instrument again after a 17-year break from the keyboard.

Ada was a role of many challenges. Hunter spent three months inventing and learning a sign language such as Ada might have worked out for herself.

She worked with composer Michael Nyman to come up with music she could play with her relatively small hands and, more specifically,

which she could play in character.

"It would have been a huge failure on my part not to have played the piano myself. I wouldn't have had it any other way," she said.

She also struggled with a dialogue coach to lose her strong Georgia accent in favour of a Scottish burr, used in a few lines of monologue which features as a voice-over in the film.

The result, critics agree, is a triumph. Hunter plays the piano like a professional and brings mystery and poetic intensity to the part.

The experience of Ada, whose passions dominate the film through its central story of a triangular love affair, had a profound effect on her.

"Ada has such a strangeness, she's so alienated, so

much on the outside," she said. "This film brought out the man and woman in each of us."

In the film, Ada wears a face of intense sadness, but in reality, 35-year-old Hunter appears a tough, articulate and warm person who wears her hair long and dresses casually.

She talks without airs and has no time for the glitzy side of the film industry with its preoccupations with building careers and discovering stars.

"If I thought about stuff like that I wouldn't be able to act," she said. "You can't work with all that crap in your mind."

She earned the respect of her co-stars. Sam Neill, who plays her husband Stewart, called her "one of the great

actresses of our time" and acknowledged she was a tough cookie.

Neill, who has just finished work on Steven Spielberg's forthcoming dinosaur blockbuster *Jurassic Park*, commented: "Working with dinosaurs is just as hard as working with Holly Hunter."

If the critical acclaim at Cannes is reflected worldwide it will be a major break for her.

Apart from her role in *Broadcast News*, for which she won an Oscar nomination, Hunter has played leads in *Raising Arizona* by the Coen Brothers and Spielberg's *Always*.

She has also worked extensively in theatre in New York and Los Angeles. Her latest project is a film by Sydney Pollack called *The Firm*.



American actress Holly Hunter (2nd from left) poses with director Jane Campion and actors Sam Neill and Harvey Keitel (left to right) in Cannes

British filmmakers pronounce their own industry dead

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuters

CANNES, France — Judging by this year's Cannes Film Festival, it might appear that reports of the demise of the British film industry are somewhat exaggerated.

Four British films are in competition, three of them seriously fancied for prizes, and Stephen Frears' British-financed Irish comedy *The Snapper* has become the hit of the festival fringe.

A story about working-class Dubliners, *The Snapper* is based on the same Irish stories as Alan Parker's hit film about a soul band *The Commitments*.

Its success comes just one month after Britain was the toast of the Hollywood Oscars, with prizes for actress

Emma Thompson and for the British-financed thriller *The Crying Game*.

And yet it seems appearances can be deceptive.

"It would be extremely foolish to view the substantial number of British films in Cannes as being a sign of a very active film industry," said director Mike Leigh, whose black comedy *Naked* has attracted broad critical praise here.

Frears, whose film marks a return home after four years in the United States, said even as he was receiving a local ovation for *The Snapper*: "I'd like to remind you the British film industry is dead."

He was not joking. "There is no industry left," he insisted to reporters after-

wards. "The fact that a few corpses have risen from the dead and made films between the cracks is not cause for celebration."

Filmmakers like him bemoan the absence of direct government funding since the abolition of the early levy, a tax on filmgoers ploughed back into production, in the mid-1980s.

Britain made just 20 films last year, compared with 130 in France where the government liberally funds the industry. Most of those were made with television funds backed by private capital, usually from other countries. *The Snapper*, made in just six weeks, has already been shown on British television — to rave reviews.

The British government

spends just £24 million (\$37 million) per year on film, mostly on training and education.

The industry is crying out for tax and other incentives to encourage both home-grown and foreign filmmakers, incentives the government has so far refused to grant.

As a result much of Britain's acting and directing talent is going abroad, particularly to Hollywood, and grassroots technicians are idle for much of the year despite a world-beating reputation.

"It's just desperation," said British Film Commissioner Sydney Samuelson. "Craftsmen, people with real talent, are doing just a few days' work a year. We need government understanding

for this."

Mr. Samuelson's commission, set up two years ago, has gone some way to attracting back foreign producers by advertising and easing access to British film and location facilities.

But he and the rest of the industry agree that what is needed above else is a change in the tax structure.

"Producers need to be able to write off capital investments against tax immediately," Mr. Samuelson said. At the moment they can only do it over three full tax years.

He also hopes a withholding tax on foreign film productions — a major disincentive — can be abolished.

There were no tax breaks for the film industry in the British government's budget announced in March, and

officials are cautious about any in the near future.

The minister of state responsible for film, Robert Key, told reporters in Cannes he would lobby hard for changes by the time of the government's budget autumn statement.

But he made no promises. "We have not ruled out revenue support for some areas," was his most optimistic statement.

Left-wing filmmakers like Frears, Leigh and Ken Loach, whose *Raining Stones* is also in competition here, despair of the present Conservative government ever helping them.

Much of their work has been a critique of the Britain created by the Conservatives, particularly under Margaret

Thatcher who was prime minister for 11 years until 1990.

But there are some signs of hope. Film used to be spread around several government departments, but is now the sole responsibility of the new Department of National Heritage.

Mr. Key, the 12th film minister in as many years, displays genuine enthusiasm for his subject and was even an extra in the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus*.

He promised funding for film from a national lottery being held later this year, but declined to say how much.

He has ruled out any suggestion of direct government funding for film production, however, arguing that French-style subsidies lower

the standard.

"Government funding doesn't win Oscars, it just leads to mediocrity," he said.

Such sentiments continue to despair filmmakers. Mr. Samuelson takes strong issue with the argument, saying a certain level of film output is vital to keep technicians working and provide them with experience.

"Without quantity of production, you can't expect the corresponding quality," he said.

That leaves filmmakers in a Catch-22 position, they say: The more they win awards, the less sympathy they receive for their pleas for help but without awards they have no platform from which to attract the government's attention.

History epics lead French export drive

By Bernard Besserglik
Agence France Presse

CANNES, France — Attendance down, exports up, co-productions the highest in Europe: Despite further inroads from television, France easily remains Europe's leading filmmaking force.

At 116 million in 1992, ticket sales were 1.4 per cent down on 1991, according to the annual Centre National Cinematographique (CNC) report.

But France increased its market share on its home territory to 34.9 per cent, compared with 30.6 per cent the previous year.

The share of American films remained stable at 58.3 per cent, the lowest of any country in Europe.

In 1991, the latest year for which complete figures were available, French film exports totalled 484 million francs (\$88 million), according to figures the CNC believed were underestimated, which nonetheless showed a 3.2 per cent increase over 1990.

The biggest earners tended to be sweeping historical epics, such as *L'Amant* or the Oscar-winning *Indochine*, director-driven films such as *La Crise* (The Crisis), and comedies such as *Le Zèbre* (The Zebra).

Germany was the leading market for French films, with 21 per cent, ahead of Italy, Japan and the United States.

Investment in filmmaking last year was at 3.6 billion francs (\$680 million), only slightly down on 1991 despite a dip of 28 per cent in foreign investment due to more restrictive quota rules.

In 1991 French investment represented a massive 48 per cent of the European total as France generated a third of European production.

The trend continued in 1992 with a total of 79 co-productions. The leading partner was Italy (18 films), ahead of Switzerland and Belgium. Russia, an increasingly important area of co-production, received French funding in 10 films.

CNC Director Dominique Wallon, accompanied by French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon, noted however that increasing co-production was not necessarily of benefit to French technicians and production companies.

The internationalisation of production often meant that shooting was shifted to areas of Europe, notably in Eastern Europe, where costs were cheaper.

With 155 films produced in 1992, France remained well ahead of its European partners, among whom only Italy exceeded 100 films. Of these, 39 were debut features.

The French figure was twice that of Germany and three times that of Britain, the report said.

Ms. Wallon was upbeat about the prospects for 1993 following the huge first-quarter success of the home-grown comedy *Les Visiteurs* and the AIDS drama *Les Nuits Fauves*.

Alongside the annual report the CNC published a list of the 20 largest money-spinners in France since 1956, with the classic French comedy *La Grande Vadrouille*, starring the late Louis de Funès, topping the list.

Runner-up was *Seagio Leone's Once Upon A Time In The West*, but nine of the top 20 were French Productions.

Three American films — *Basic Instinct*, *Lethal Weapon 3* and *Hook* — topped the 1992 box-office, ahead of Jean-Jacques Annaud's *L'Amant*.

In Brazil, exporting romance is big business

By Katherine Molinski
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — The Turks sob over them. The Chileans censor the spicy ones. Angolans empty the streets to see them. The Italians simply can't buy enough.

Brazilian romance — in the form of TV "novelas", or soap operas — is doing brisk business around the world, bringing 25 million in revenue to broadcast giant Globo Network in 1992 and growing by some 10 per cent a year.

From Switzerland to Thailand, Jordan and China, Globo markets its good old-fashioned video tear-jerkers to 120 nations and an audience of millions.

What's the secret of success?

"Girl meets boy and falls in

love. But the boy is in love with another girl, who in turn loves some other boy. It's *Romeo and Juliet* — love, betrayal, birth, tragedy, death. You can't really stray too far from that," Globo's international marketing director, Jorge Adib, said.

With an emphasis on production quality, the Globo novelas are noted for lush images achieved by on-location taping in Brazil's beautiful and exotic countryside such as the Amazon, the vast Pantanal swampland and the tropical northeastern coast.

"Globo is a huge marketer of novelas around the world. It's our quality that sells, our production values," said Mr. Adib.

But the real secret is in the story, Mr. Adib said.

"You have to realise that the theme is always the same. It's the package that changes," he said.

"We don't make novelas specifically for overseas sales. We are concerned first with our 45 million viewers in Brazil. But if these sell overseas, and they do, all the better," Mr. Adib said.

According to Mr. Adib, who travels constantly marketing the novelas, he hears tales of the impact Globo novelas have in other cultures.

It is true that in Angola and Portugal, whose Portuguese-speaking audiences are among Globo's biggest novela fans, abandon the streets to be in front of their television sets for a climactic episode of a Brazilian novela?

"That happens so often, in Portugal, Italy, Angola, Cuba. Really, it's commonplace," he said.

"In Russia, they tell me that the novelas are so popular people have started to use

the word *fazenda* (the Portuguese word for ranch) instead of *dacha*," he said.

"And they say that in Cuba, President (Fidel) Castro schedules his meetings so that they won't conflict with novelas. Of course, I can't prove that, but it's what they say," he said.

With a well-deserved reputation for erotic themes and sensual, often scantily clad women, novelas have sometimes run into problems with censorship," Mr. Adib said.

"Chile has objected to some shows. They are kind of prudish," Mr. Adib said.

He said one novela, with an opening sequence in which the camera pans in a close-up shot across parts of a woman's naked body, was edited by the Chileans to discreetly cover strategic areas. Another novela called *Womb For Hire* was rejected.

Mr. Adib predicted that international sales of novelas, which last year rose by 30 per cent in Portugal and 20 per cent in all of Latin America, would continue to be a growth market.

The biggest target is the United States, a huge audience that has so far largely rejected Brazil's novelas because of a distaste for dubbing. But Mr. Adib said a proliferation of cable channels will mean a whole new market for his product.

"Soon there may be some 300 cable channels available. On that day, U.S. companies will need to buy a lot of material. That day will not be long in arriving," he said.

Mr. Adib said he was confident Globo would be able to meet any demand after the completion, within the next two years, of its new Hollywood-style production com-

plex known as Projac, with nine production studios, southwest of Rio.

Globo first started marketing novelas overseas in 1975, but their international popularity really started taking off after the production of the mega-hit *Slave Isaura*, the tale of a slave woman which Mr. Adib called "our version of *Gone With The Wind*."

The newest twist on programming now being marketed overseas is an interactive novela called *You Decide* which lays out a moral or ethical dilemma, stops the action, and asks viewers to telephone in their preference for the resolution.

One of two pre-recorded endings is shown later in the evening according to the choice expressed by callers.

Adib said nearly two dozen countries have already signed on for the show.

Malaysian theatre group delights with irreverence

By Lai Kwok Kin
Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR — It is, by turns, sarcastic, outrageous and ridiculous — and almost always politically incorrect.

In Malaysia, a multi-ethnic country conscious of racial and religious differences and known for its political sensitivity, a theatre group is making hilarious waves.

Its audacious humour, often at the expense of political leaders, has enabled the *Moet Et Chandon* Instant Cafe Theatre Company to play to sell-out audiences.

"We have no doubt we have offended people. But you have got to learn to laugh at yourself," Englishman Andrew Leci, director of the 10-member company, said in an interview. "Life is essentially funny, amusing, ridicu-

lous."

The six men and four women began performing in December 1989. Six months later they set up the Instant Cafe Theatre, Malaysia's first professional theatre group.

All except Leci and another Briton are Malaysians. Leci, 31, studied drama in Sheffield and worked in various countries as an investment broker, a period he describes as "3-1/2 years of purgatory," before returning to acting.

"We all come from diverse backgrounds. But everyone has something to contribute. Some can sing, some can act, some can write," said group member Shantini Venugopal.

"I think we succeed because we are different. There isn't this kind of entertainment offered in Malaysia by any local or foreign group," she added.

The Instant Cafe Theatre has performed such works as Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As Is*, a moving play about AIDS. But the group is mostly known for its irreverent approach to issues in Malaysian life.

Skits and songs spoof the custom of circumcision, the annoyance of power failures and the life and times of D.P. Vijandran, a former deputy speaker of parliament accused by the opposition of acting in a pornographic video.

The group performs over 100 shows a year, sometimes before members of royalty or politicians — who themselves often end up as the victims.

During a show this month, the Instant Cafe Theatre took a swipe at members of Malaysian royalty, recently stripped of their legal immunity and other privileges when the

government passed controversial constitutional amendments through parliament.

The government had accused the country's nine hereditary rulers, who take turns every five years to become king, of importing cars without paying duty, obtaining business contracts unfairly and abusing logging concessions.

Instead of steering clear of the sensitive issue, the company revised lyrics from *The Sound Of Music*:

"Luxury cars with no import duty. Timber concessions to bring in the booty,

State-sponsored projects with menteris (ministers) on strings,

These were a few of our favourite things..."

Equally daringly, during its 45-minute show, it asked whether the elected members

of the State Executive Committee, with their perks, were not all "just as bad."

"We have had the occasional admonitory word but I don't think anybody takes us seriously enough (to prosecute or ban the group)," Leci said.

But he added that members of the audience sometimes walked out in anger or embarrassment or both.

One of Leci's more memorable shows satirised a 1991 row between Malaysia and Australia over Embassy, a television drama produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Bilateral relations were chilled by Malaysia's anger over the series, set in the Australian embassy in the fictional country of Ragaan.

Malaysian officials said the show poked fun at a thinly disguised version of their pre-

dominantly Muslim country. Performing for the Malaysian-Australian Business Council, the Instant Cafe Theatre retaliated with a skit about the Malaysian embassy in the fictitious country of Goodonya, "a large island northwest of New Zealand and south of Indonesia."

"It was getting back at the Aussies, who loved it," Leci recalled. "But some Malaysians in the audience walked out, because they thought the Australians were upset and that it was going to lead to an international incident."

He said Malaysians attached a lot of importance to appearance and face-saving.

"The individual's propensity for self-mockery here is not as developed as in Britain, where parody and self-loathing are the order of the day," he said.

Post-traumatic stress vulnerability is partly inherited — study

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press
CHICAGO — Much of a person's vulnerability to post-traumatic stress disorder may be inherited, researchers say after studying more than 8,000 twins who served in the military during the Vietnam War era.

who headed the study and said it is the first to explore the role of heredity in the disorder.

"Of course...many of us could be walking around with a considerable potential for post-traumatic stress disorder, and if we are never exposed to war, natural disasters or muggers, the potential may never be turned on," Mr. True said.

Findings appear in the

April issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry, a journal published by the Chicago-based American Medical Association.

More than a decade after the Vietnam War, 828,000 veterans who served there continued to be haunted by post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, a 1990 study found.

Symptoms may include nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety,

irritability, anger, sleep disturbances, abnormal detachment or emotional numbness.

"Even years later, people can be considerably impaired," Mr. True said by telephone from St. Louis, where he is a researcher at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and an associate professor at St. Louis University School of Public Health.

Post-traumatic stress disorder can arise from any traumatic event, including car accidents, crimes and earthquakes or storms.

The researchers surveyed 4,042 pairs of identical or fraternal male twins already in the Vietnam era twin registry, a group that had been enrolled for long-term health studies.

After taking into account differing levels of combat exposure, researchers found

that hereditary influences accounted for 13 per cent to 34 per cent of vulnerability to post-traumatic stress disorder, depending on the symptom.

Other studies suggest that genetics play a role in susceptibility to depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia and substance abuse, said the authors, including researchers from the University of Illinois and Boston University.

Shared family-life experiences didn't contribute significantly to the disorder, the study found.

Jessica Wolfe, acting director of the Women's Health Sciences Division at the VA's National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Boston, said the study is very important.

"Mostly I think it will help us understand the basis of the

disorder and how to treat it," she said. "That's the real goal, improving treatment."

Both researchers said they hope findings of the federally funded study will lessen the stigma that may discourage veterans from getting treatment.

Post-traumatic stress disorder responds well to psychotherapy and, in some cases, medication, Mr. True said.

Drugs — Some cure, others kill

By Heidi Munan
KUALA LUMPUR — In many parts of the Third World, pharmacies are not the only source of medicine. Itinerant medicine sellers peddle warming embrocations, herbal medicines and, more, some hawkers display plastic bags full of multicoloured capsules, pills, bottles of lotions and poisons. In the typical marketplace a knot of men surrounds the stall decorated with charts displaying pathological conditions in lurid colour. Sales talk is liberally laced with smutty jokes, and the medicines on sale are guaranteed to cure all ills including impotence. "And this one is good for stomach ache. This one will

cure asthma..." There is no brand name on the packages and bottles, no description, no expiration date, no directions for use.

Education has done much to discourage primitive medical remedies and replace them with scientifically developed drugs in the Third World. But now patients must beware of the dangers inherent in substandard, fake, expired or unidentified drugs — all of which are bought by consumers for self-medication.

Reports on "fake drug" raids by Malaysia's medical or domestic trade authorities exhort the public not to buy imitations. But how is the public to know? Imitations of

commonly used brand medicines and foodstuffs (monosodium glutamate is a favourite) are cleverly packaged. If found on supermarket shelves, few consumers know the difference. Because of libel laws, newspapers don't usually name the products the public is supposed to be careful of. "Pills to relieve headache and eye lotion" was how Malaysia's national news agency, Bernama, described a recent contraband haul worth \$1.4 million seized by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.

Imported medicines are inspected at the point of entry into Malaysia, and — in major towns — food and medicine shops are periodically

checked by Medical Department or Ministry of Trade staff, which handle trademark infringements.

"We act immediately in cases of food or drugs," said Mohammad Said Bin Zain, senior assistant director of enforcement. "Tainted products endanger the public. Ten years ago we dealt with a case of imitation eyepdrops that contained bacteria. Fake headache tablets impounded by my staff a couple of weeks ago proved to contain only half the genuine product's active ingredients."

Even when consumers can't read the labels, medicine sellers do a good business. The poor don't have easy access to doctors, and the government dispensary is closed on Sunday — market day in small country towns. With a tempting selection of medicines available in the market, few farmers will take a weekday off work just to visit the doctor.

Allopathic (Western) medicines sold in the Sunday market aren't all fakes. Some are drugs outlawed in other countries and dumped on unsophisticated markets. Although responsible pharmacists destroy expired drugs, some find their way into the curbside market. Some may be useless, others lethal, depending on how ingredients change when they deteriorate.

In Malaysia and other developing nations, there are thousands of practitioners of what the West calls "alterna-

tive medicine." They are Malay, Ayurvedic and Chinese physicians and acupuncturists who treat patients for bodily and mental ills — the aim is to keep the patient healthy, to not let him get sick and to cure him. Regulated by their own codes of ethics but not subject to formal registration, their training varies from five years at Chinese Medical College to an apprenticeship with an experienced bomoh (Malay village doctor). Traditional medicine can be marketed commercially only after approval by the Drug Control Authority, which has received 3,800 applications for registration.

Progress has been a mixed blessing, even in the field of traditional medicine. Malaysia's Sales of Drugs Act standardises herbal and traditional medicinal preparations, but some healers dispense drugs as well as herbal potions. Antibiotics, such as Penicillin, are dispensed by some bomohs, as is quinine and even cortisone. Practitioners without a medical license smuggle supplies or get them from "unscrupulous suppliers," surmises a Ministry of Health official. "A traditional healer could get certain drugs in bulk and fill them into gelatine capsules himself. Of course that's illegal, and we can deal severely with such a fellow — if we catch him."



So-called sidewalk doctors offer cheap examinations to poor patients in a Malaysian town

example is the person who takes antacid for what he thinks is a stomach ache when it is, in fact, the onset of a heart attack. "The few dollars the man thought he'd saved may cost him his life," the physician added.

Daryl Ong, president of the Sarawak Pharmaceutical Society, advises consumers bent on self-medication to buy supplies from a reputable pharmacist who knows exactly what a medicine will do or not do, and who will advise a customer to consult a doctor if his condition warrants it. Ong doesn't think medicines are unreasonably expensive in Malaysia, and people have little justification to seek remedies on the cheap. "The usual market forces are at work. There is competition. The major manufacturers produce very similar 'variants' of the same drug, so the doctor or pharmacist has some choice."

Not all who resort to self-medication are driven by poverty. Some simply like the idea of choosing for themselves. The sidewalk medicine seller flourishes in towns and country fairs. His sales pitch may be enhanced by gimmicks — like breaking bricks on his head — proof positive of the strengthening properties of his wares.

"You can't blame the medicine seller for everything that goes wrong," warned a nurse with years of experience in community work. "Some people have very unreasonable expectations of medicine. They give a sick child one tablet. He doesn't get better immediately. They give him another tablet. And another. Or, they supplement medicine prescribed by the doctor with pills they bought in the market. A small child or an old person may not survive this sort of treatment."

"Take the recent craze for

'health supplements,' pushed by direct-selling groups," she said. "The seller convinces friends that they suffer from hitherto unheard-of conditions, like sibling affinity pro-lapse and an indirectly related syndrome. He sells them three months' supplies of Vitamins G3, H20 and Tongue of Newt Extract as a guaranteed, eco-friendly cure. I don't think health supplements are dangerous in themselves. They wouldn't have passed testing at the point of entry if they were. But most are expensive, and they condition people to pop pills without consulting a doctor."

Malaysia has several laws to protect the consumer. There were 71 "fake drug raids" in 1991, 68 in 1992, 22 to date in 1993. Raids, reports and impounding of contraband merchandise are swift, but the legal machinery is slow. There have been two convictions for the 161 reports made in the last three years. The other cases are still pending.

Encouraging though these figures are, they do not represent the whole picture. Doctors would like to see more supervision of shops selling medicines and regular checks on "sidewalk druggists" and the market sellers of panaceas. For now, though, authorities simply don't have the manpower for full efficiency. And there are not enough qualified pharmacists. The public and private sector eagerly snatch up each year's new crop of graduates.

A balance between modern and traditional health care has to be found, with the stress on care rather than cure. People need to be educated to practice public and private hygiene. Improved economic conditions shouldn't result only in more food, but better food and a more wholesome lifestyle. Education has done much, but more is needed — World News Link.



Market day in small communities of the developing world offers a wide choice of drugs to the uninformed consumers

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

OWNERSHIP
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- 10 Burden
- 14 Kind of rest
- 19 Gaelic
- 20 "in the Dark"
- 21 Quashed
- 22 Indian
- 23 A singer's attendant
- 25 Sound sonorously
- 26 Used a wrench
- 27 More rapid
- 28 Actor Bridges
- 30 Religious beliefs
- 31 Hay horse
- 32 Ostracizing remarks
- 33 Calendar abbr.
- 34 Elizabeth and Eve
- 37 Contract
- 42 Actress Helen
- 43 An actor's calamity
- 45 Sops
- 46 Amo —, amat
- 47 Shen of yam
- 48 Panacea
- 49 Gulp
- 50 Author Anas
- 51 Comic's bargain
- 52 Bagpipe
- 53 Tender spoils
- 54 Freight
- 55 Twelve
- 57 North and South
- 59 We need \$1 in 61
- 61 Assorted to a region
- 62 Bagpipe
- 63 Carve
- 64 Hue
- 65 Boston favorite
- 66 Canadian
- 67 Whip out
- 68 Pause
- 69 Sweets
- 71 See eye to eye
- 74 Gem
- 75 Harbors
- 76 Frighten
- 78 X, Y and Z
- 80 "I small"
- 81 Discharged cargo
- 82 Ridges of rocks
- 83 Measured
- 86 Volts, for short
- 87 On the wagon
- 89 Tendon
- 90 — in one's
- 91 TV show
- 92 Average
- 93 Scooped
- 94 Looped handle of a vase
- 95 Violent dance
- 96 Mackerel
- 97 Copy
- 99 Chess
- 101 Pledge

DOWN

- 1 — up (tennesse)
- 2 OED word
- 3 Star zener abbr.
- 4 Sexual Security recipients
- 5 Nation dries
- 6 Colorado ski resort
- 7 Scarf
- 8 — out (dress up)
- 9 Leading
- 10 Indiana city
- 11 Toss the line
- 12 When I was —
- 13 State abbr.
- 14 Evil
- 15 "Holes"
- 16 — "s contest
- 17 "in years"
- 18 Not as much
- 24 Religious images
- 29 Breathing organ
- 30 Restaurant employees
- 31 Flamboyant
- 32 River ducks
- 34 Letter — (vowels)
- 35 Plant yielding textile fiber
- 36 Actress, big gun
- 37 Flows gradually
- 38 Carve
- 39 Actor's vessel
- 40 Sheepskin
- 41 Carried on, as
- 42 Stocks with paste
- 44 Shoe bottoms
- 47 Fees
- 48 Fashions
- 51 Opera singer
- 52 Beverly
- 53 Clipped, as sheep
- 54 Tender spoils
- 55 Twelve
- 57 North and South
- 59 We need \$1 in 61
- 61 Assorted to a region
- 62 Bagpipe
- 63 Carve
- 64 Hue
- 65 Boston favorite
- 66 Canadian
- 67 Whip out
- 68 Pause
- 69 Sweets
- 71 See eye to eye
- 74 Gem
- 75 Harbors
- 76 Frighten
- 78 X, Y and Z
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- 91 TV show
- 92 Average
- 93 Scooped
- 94 Looped handle of a vase
- 95 Violent dance
- 96 Mackerel
- 97 Copy
- 99 Chess
- 101 Pledge

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CHOOZY-WHOOZY BLLEKXHZ SZHUF ABU
SNOOZY EGY WYBYTWYCF FLAYERATF,
KNE EGY LBEYT BROOZY. —By Eugene T. Malenka
2. ALLGONE PUG AURIE TRYPS UKSNT
NUSRIY LLGONE LK ILLGONE. —By Ed Huddleston
3. PAARUMTYL OR P ZTYL DTLKOPUOIM
DICTARY, ORDERCIN PUI "ZTDI"
APETVION. KPKI —By Barbara J. Rugg
4. XINOB "USNO" RV TACFG CLF KFSUC TA
TKERGIB LIKE XTKO. —By Gordon Miller

Annual test reduces fatal colon cancer in older people

By Jim Fuller
WASHINGTON — Doctors report that annual use of a simple screening test starting at age 50 can significantly reduce deaths caused by colon cancer.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota reported in the latest issue of the New England Journal of Medicine that wide use of an inexpensive test for blood in stools could reduce the risk of dying from colon cancer by one-third.

That translates into the prevention of about 20,000 deaths a year in the United States, where colon cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths after lung cancer.

Although the cause of colon cancer remains unknown, approximately 152,000 new cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year. Family history, diet, alcohol and a lack of exercise all have been cited as possible causes.

While the fecal blood test is already used as routine part of physical exams in the United States, the latest results are the first to show that it actually saves lives.

"This is the first study to present conclusive evidence from a randomized trial...that the test is effective in reducing mortality," said Dr. Jack Mandel, the study's principal investigator. "It demonstrates that a significant reduction in colorectal cancer

mortality among people over 50 can be achieved by annual screening."

The study, funded by the National Cancer Institute, involved 46,551 healthy men and women ages 50 to 80 who were randomly assigned to have the test annually, every other year, or not at all.

After 13 years, it was found that six of every 1,000 people tested annually died of colon cancer, considerably better than the rate of nine deaths per 1,000 in the group that wasn't screened. Those tested every other year had a death rate that was only slightly better than the untested group.

Three other screening trials using the fecal blood test are currently under way in Europe. Meanwhile, the Minnesota researchers will continue to monitor study participants to determine whether biennial screening might eventually be shown to reduce mortality.

"Colorectal cancer screening has come of age," said Dr. Sidney Winawer of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, who wrote an editorial accompanying the New England Journal report. "We now have an effective screening method, and I believe we should use it."

However, experts differ over whether the study provides sufficient evidence to justify having everyone over

50 take the test annually, as is recommended by the American Cancer Society. At issue is the test's accuracy in indicating colon cancer.

Overall, 10 per cent of people tested during routine physicals are found to have blood in their stool. But because blood in the stool can have many possible sources, including ulcers, hemorrhoids and eating red meat, fewer than three in 100 patients who test positive have colon cancer. Yet the 97 others must undergo a costly, unpleasant follow-up test called colonoscopy to prove they are free of cancer.

A colonoscopy, in which a flexible scope is inserted in the colon to look for cancer, typically costs between \$500 and \$1,000. Because of the high cost of the follow-up test, mass screening of older Americans could cost more than \$3,000 million a year, according to one estimate.

The fecal blood test can also give a false negative reading because some colon cancers bleed intermittently, some bleed too little to be detected, and some do not bleed at all. Doctors recommend testing every year so that tumours missed one year may be detected the next — USIA.

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES

- (A) For Film Fans:
1. GA(B)LE
 2. GR(A)INT
 3. NO(R)TH
 4. MA(R)CH
 5. WA(Y)NE
 6. RO(M)AN
 7. BL(O)OM
 8. PA(R)KS
 9. ST(E)EL
- The famous name is BARRYMORE.
- *****

(B) DO IT IN A MINUTE, PLEASE!

$$9^0 - 2 = 9^0 = 1$$

PLO seeks support for its quest

(Continued from page 1)

ferred a deeper political crisis as a result of pursuing peace talks without real progress on substance in the negotiations.

"We are tired of testing the Americans. We have had many experiences with the U.S. administration, but we clearly tell them that the imbalance of power in the region in Israel's favour does not mean that Arabs will accept minimum concessions," said Mr. Kaddoumi.

Mr. Kaddoumi warned the U.S. administration of jeopardising the peace process by not playing the role of a neutral mediator.

The PLO official said that members of the Palestinian peace delegation who will visit Washington early June will demand a phased Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, including Jerusalem.

Mr. Kaddoumi said Palestinian delegates will discuss with American officials a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, "with special emphasis on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and to set a timetable for this withdrawal."

Mr. Kaddoumi said if Israeli forces unilaterally withdraw from any part of the occupied territories, "we will regain it as a precious part of our dear homeland, but it should be linked to withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza."

He told reporters that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat did not suggest that Israel withdraw from the Gaza Strip only.

Britain's Sky Television reported that Arafat was ready to accept the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and partial withdrawal from the West Bank, and the Israeli troops there would be replaced by a multinational or American troops.

Agencies add: Chief Palestinian

negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said Wednesday there was no real crisis in the Middle East peace talks, and the complications which have arisen were only negotiating tactics, Israel Radio said.

The radio said Dr. Abdul Shafi told delegates to the convention of the Israeli Democratic Front for Peace and Equality that it was possible to make progress in the negotiations if the parties made an effort to overcome the difficulties.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality is a political grouping made up of the largely Arab Israeli Communist Party and several small left-wing groups. Dr. Abdul Shafi was the guest of honour at the convention's opening session.

Last week Dr. Abdul Shafi said the peace talks were at an impasse and could not continue in their present format. He said the talks should be suspended unless Israel conceded Palestinian self-rule over all the occupied territories including East Jerusalem.

In May Al Zhour, Lebanon Palestinian exiles urged Arabs to boycott the next round of peace talks.

"We hope the Arabs would reject the invitation for the 10th round of negotiations especially since the stand of the full American partner is biased towards the so-called state of Israel," said Abdul Aziz Rantisi, leader of the 396 exiles.

He told reporters a plan at the U.S. and Russian-sponsored talks for limited Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would make Israel's occupation of the areas permanent.

"Therefore, the Palestinian delegation should adhere to the will of the Palestinian people and refuse to return to the negotiating table," said Dr. Rantisi, a founding member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Iraq vows to avenge attacks

(Continued from page 1)

the official agency, appeared aimed at defusing a crisis reminiscent of that which led to the 1980-88 war.

Despite the ceasefire, Iran and Iraq have not signed a formal peace treaty, and thousands of prisoners are still held by both sides.

With Iraq increasingly isolated and plagued with hardships caused by international sanctions in force since 1990, a border flareup could help divert the Iraqis' attention.

But Tehran is trying hard to lure foreign investment and rebuild the economy, which was shattered by the conflict with Iraq. A news crisis on the border would obstruct the government's thrust.

Iranian officials and the media have played down the attack, stressing that Tehran had no intentions against Iraq and was only chasing rebels based there.

Deputy Speaker of Iran's Parliamentary Hassan Ruhani accused the Mujahedeen of "trying to disrupt the presidential elections" set for June 11.

Mr. Ruhani, who also is secretary of the National Security Council, told parliament Tuesday that Iran "will cut off the hands of any attacker," but urged Iraq to preserve "good neighbourly relations and peaceful coexistence."

His statement was published in the English-language Tehran Times.

Iran sent a message to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali saying Baghdad was responsible for Tuesday's raids because it did not heed Iranian warnings to rein in the rebels, who have claimed a

series of attacks inside Iran in recent months.

But the message, excerpts of which were carried by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency, said Iran remained committed to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which halted the Iran-Iraq war in 1988.

It was "a purely defensive measure in the exercise of its (Iran's) inherent right to self-defence," said the letter, delivered Tuesday through Iran's U.N. mission.

The rebels, it added, have "headquarters and military bases in Iraq, where military training, financial and logistical support, and intelligence services are provided to them."

Although the Mujahedeen said one fighter was wounded by friendly fire, no casualties were reported in the air strikes, the first Iranian action against the Mujahedeen in more than a year.

Opponents of the Iranian government called for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council to condemn the Iranian air strikes.

The call was made by Massoud Rajavi, president of the National Resistance Council (NRC), an umbrella group including the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, an NRC official said.

He did not say where Rajavi had made the call from.

"We ask the Security Council to condemn this aggression... we ask the countries in the region to condemn this crime and we ask Iraq to prevent such attacks," Mohammad Mohadessine, president of the NRC foreign affairs commission, told a news conference in Paris.

Stoltenberg

(Continued from page 1)

talks with Spain's Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

Earlier this week there was some speculation in London that Lord Owen, appointed by the EC, might be considering his own future after four European countries and the United States proclaimed a new interim strategy for Bosnia.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the United States must limit its involvement in Bosnia or risk a military commitment for an "indefinite period."

And another administration official suggested that as the United States focuses on its economic problems, it may withdraw somewhat from the world stage.

Mr. Christopher, speaking on the ABC television network, warned Tuesday night that Bosnia could become a "quagmire, a morass" for the United States if American troops were sent there to bring peace.

His remarks followed by hours those of a senior State Department official who told reporters that the Clinton administration intends increasingly to defer to European allies in asserting a leadership role. The White House later disavowed the remarks.

Maglaj under fire

Tens of thousands of trapped Muslims in the Serb-besieged north Bosnia town of Maglaj are seriously short of food and up to 100 shells are raining down on them daily, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

"The situation with food is very serious and electricity and running water are reduced to one and a half hours a day," a British army spokesman said.

Velayati tour seen to ease tensions

(Continued from page 1)

a committee for the follow-up on what we have decided here about the expansion of relations and also the diversification of relations between Iran and Kuwait."

Mr. Velayati told reporters before he returned to Tehran. The tour aimed at building bridges with the Gulf countries, especially with the UAE, which has been locked with Iran in a dispute over three strategic is-

lands near the Strait of Hormuz.

In Abu Dhabi, Mr. Velayati agreed with the government of the UAE to resume talks to settle the dispute.

Kuwait's relations with Iran were strained during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war, during which Kuwait supported Iraq. But Tehran's neutrality during the 1991 Gulf war improved relations with Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states.

Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen, undersecretary of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry, said the committees will start meeting in July after the Iranian presidential elections next month.

On his second visit to the emirate since its liberation from a seven-month Iraqi invasion Feb. 26, 1991, Mr. Velayati met with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

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Base price JD 11,000
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Base price JD 10,000
- 4) Suzuki Samurai JX 1990, 4WD, 4 cylinder, 25,938 KMS, needs maintenance.
Base price JD 3,000
- 6) Nissan Patrol 1991, 25,749 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 1,750
- 7) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,491 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 2,500
- 8) Nissan Patrol 1991, 32,532 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 2,500
- 9) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,946 KMS, bad condition.
Base price JD 1,750
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World Cup qualifying matches

China overcomes Jordan 3-0

CHINA SCORED a 3-0 victory over Jordan Wednesday to top the standings in the Asian Group A qualification matches for the 1994 World Cup.

The Jordanian team, playing their third consecutive match since the competition began Saturday, was not an easy opponent for the group favorites and squandered at least three scoring chances in the first half.

Top striker Jiryes Tadros converted a free kick by captain Jamal Abu Abed to a header that hit the post in the 10th minute.

Two minutes later, the Chinese team, playing their second game after thrashing Pakistan 5-0 Saturday, had their only real chance blocked by Jordan's goalie.

Jordan's Abu Abed and Subhi Suleiman led their team's repeated attacks to score an early goal, but their shots lacked accurate finishing. The first half ended scoreless.

China's captain Wu Qunli wasted a 50th minute penalty kick which was successfully blocked by goalie Mohammad Abu Daoud.



Injured defenders like, Yousef Al Ammouri, cost Jordan the game

The Chinese team took advantage of mounting injuries to the Jordanian side, as Gao Hongbo scored the first goal by a header in the 61st minute.

Jordan missed the efforts of key defender Yousef Al Ammouri who injured his knee in the match against Iraq.

Mohammad Mahadeen and Nart Yadaaj were the latest to receive injuries and were substituted by Aref Hussein and Mohammad Al Ashhab.

China scored their second goal by Wu in the 68th minute.

Jordan's players went on the offensive hoping to score a face-saving goal. Fitness proved to be the obstacle, as slow defenders could no longer intercept China's faster players. In the final minute, striker Cai Sheng took a long pass and scored China's third goal in the total absence of Jordanian defenders except for Ahmad Al Shaqran, who seemed to be suffering from a leg injury and was lying on the ground unable to even see what was going on.

Teams

Jordan: Mohammad Abu Daoud, Murad Al Horani, Muhammad Mahadeen (Aref Hussein), Firas Al Khaleel, Ahmad Abdul Qader, Ahmad Al Shaqran, Hisham Abdul Munem, Subhi, Suleiman, Jamal Abu Abed, Jiryes Tadros, Nart Yadaaj (Mohammad Al Ashhab).

China: Xu Tao, Dong Liqiang, Fan Zhiyi, Li Bing, Wu Qunli, Gao Hongbo, Hao Haidong (Xie Yuxin), Li Yong (Li Ming), Li Hongbing, Cai Sheng, Xu Hong.

last minute, but Bill Cartwright missed 3 of 4 free throws. Jordan scored 36 points but again came up empty on shots that could have put further pressure on the Knicks, who led by 14 points at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Jordan missed 20 of 32 shots and was 5 for 16 in the second half. He is 22 for 39 in the two games.

Pippen had 17 points before being ejected with 7:34 left for throwing a ball at referee Bill Oakes.

NBA Most Valuable Players

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1956 | Bob Pettit, St. Louis Hawks |
| 1957 | Bob Cousy, Boston Celtics |
| 1958 | Bill Russell, Boston Celtics |
| 1959 | Bob Pettit, St. Louis Hawks |
| 1960 | Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia Warriors |
| 1961 | Bill Russell, Boston Celtics |
| 1962 | Bill Russell, Boston Celtics |
| 1963 | Bill Russell, Boston Celtics |
| 1964 | Oscar Robertson, Cincinnati Royals |
| 1965 | Bill Russell, Boston Celtics |
| 1966 | Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia 76ers |
| 1967 | Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia 76ers |
| 1968 | Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia 76ers |
| 1969 | Wes Unseld, Baltimore Bullets |
| 1970 | Willis Reed, New York Knicks |
| 1971 | Low Alcindor, Milwaukee Bucks |
| 1972 | Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Milwaukee Bucks |
| 1973 | Walt Frazier, New York Knicks |
| 1974 | Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Milwaukee Bucks |
| 1975 | Bob McAdoo, Buffalo Braves |
| 1976 | Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Los Angeles Lakers |
| 1977 | Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Los Angeles Lakers |
| 1978 | Bill Walton, Portland Trail Blazers |
| 1979 | Moses Malone, Houston Rockets |
| 1980 | Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Los Angeles Lakers |
| 1981 | Julius Erving, Philadelphia 76ers |
| 1982 | Moses Malone, Houston Rockets |
| 1983 | Moses Malone, Philadelphia 76ers |
| 1984 | Larry Bird, Boston Celtics |
| 1985 | Larry Bird, Boston Celtics |
| 1986 | Larry Bird, Boston Celtics |
| 1987 | Magic Johnson, Los Angeles Lakers |
| 1988 | Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls |
| 1989 | Michael Jordan, Los Angeles Lakers |
| 1990 | Michael Jordan, Los Angeles Lakers |
| 1991 | Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls |
| 1992 | Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls |
| 1993 | Charles Barkley, Phoenix |

Barkley chosen NBA's Most Valuable Player

PHOENIX (AP) — Charles Barkley was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player Tuesday, breaking a decade-long lock on the award by three guys named Larry Bird, Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson.

With Larry Bird and Magic Johnson retired, Barkley had only Michael Jordan of those three to beat out, and the NBA announced Tuesday morning that that's exactly what Sir Charles had done.

"I don't know what criteria they use. One year, I should have won, but it's just one of those things," the 6-foot-6 (1.98 metre) forward said Monday night after helping the Phoenix Suns beat Seattle 105-91 in game 1 of the Western Conference final.

Barkley won the award with 835 points, including 59 first-place votes. Barkley and Jordan were the only players named on all 98 ballots cast by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters in NBA cities.

Yet, Jordan finished only third, behind Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston. Olajuwon had 647 points, including 22 first-place votes, while Jordan had 565 points and 13 first-place votes.

The remaining four first-place votes went to Patrick Ewing of New York, who was fourth with 359 points.

"Winning is what he's all about, and he does whatever it takes," Phoenix Suns teammate Dan Majerle said of Barkley.

Knicks beat Bulls for 2-0 series lead. The New York Knicks have a formula that works: Shut down Michael Jordan in the second half. The result in game 2 was a 96-91 victory and 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Tuesday night, as in game 1,

Competitors gear-up for 22-stage Jordan International Rally

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's most-awaited auto sports event — the Jordan International Rally — sets off at 4 p.m. Thursday from the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman.

46 competitors representing 11 countries will cover over 970 kilometres throughout the two-day rally which will test the skills and patience of the most seasoned drivers in 400-kilometres of 22 special stages.

The rally, billed to be part of the 1995/96 season's World Championship, will take competitors northwards for 11 all-asphalt stages in Thursday's first leg. The first special stage will be at Marsa north of Shafa Badran. The route then passes through Masara, Ras Al Aqra, Soof, and Kufi Khal before the first car arrives at the Jerash service and regrouping halt by 7:43 p.m.

The restart from Jerash will be at 8:30 p.m. towards the remaining special stages of the day, taking the reverse direction through Ras Al Aqra, Soof, Kufi Khal, Masara, Marsa, and Rumeimeen.

The first car is due at rally headquarters — the Forte Grand Hotel — in Amman at 1 a.m. Friday.

The second leg of the rally

will start at 9 a.m. Friday, heading southwards for the final 11 desert stages, passing through Tunaib, Swagga, Hafira, Hasa, Fajej, Service and regrouping will be at the Petra Forum Hotel. The restart will be at 3:30 p.m. passing through Beidha, and then taking the reverse direction through Fajej, Hasa, Hafira, Swagga and Tunaib. The first car is due at the finish ramp at the Forte Grand hotel at 9:15 p.m.

Competition is expected to be tough especially from Qatar's Naser Al Aiyah in a Toyota Celica GT4, Italy's Franco Corradin in a Lancia Delta Integrale, Lebanon's Michael Saleh in a Toyota Celica GT4, and Abdallah Bakhshab in Saudi Arabia in another Toyota Celica GT4. Jordanian competitors are also hoping to achieve advanced standings. The King-

Past Jordan Rally Winners

1981	Michel Saleh /RL	Toyota Celica GT
1982	Michel Saleh /RL	Toyota Celica GT
1983	Saeed Al-Hajri /Q	Opel Manta 400
1984	Moh'd. Bin Sulayman /UAE	Toyota Celica Turbo
1985	Saeed Al-Hajri /Q	Porsche 911 SCRS
1986	Saeed Al-Hajri /Q	Porsche 911 SCRS
1987	Mohammad D. Bin Sulayman /UAE	Toyota Celica TWINCAM Turbo
1988	Moh'd. Bin Sulayman /UAE	Toyota Celica TWINCAM Turbo
1990	Moh'd. Bin Sulayman /UAE	Toyota Celica GT4
1992	Abbas Al-Mosawi /Q	Toyota Celica GT4

Lendl shocked by unknown French qualifier

PARIS (AP) — If there were any doubts that Ivan Lendl no longer is the player he used to be, they were removed when the three-time champion lost in the first round of the French Open to a French qualifier playing only his second tour match.

Stephane Hue, ranked No. 297 in the world, shocked the seventh-seeded Lendl in four sets — 3-6, 7-5, 6-0, 7-6 (7-2) — to register the first upset of the tournament. It was Lendl's second straight first-round loss in a Grand Slam event.

Lendl is the only seed to lose in the first two days of competition, with top-seeded Pete Sampras, No. 5 Goran Ivanisevic and No. 8 Michael Chang among the men advancing Tuesday.

Of the top women, No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini, No. 5 Mary Joe Fernandez and No. 6 Jennifer Capriati all won easily. Lendl held the No. 1 ranking for much of the 1980s and has won eight Grand Slam titles. But the signs of his demise have been coming for some time now. Last year, he lost in the second round in Paris.

Lendl, 33, started this year with a first-round defeat at the Australian Open. In Europe this spring, he suffered what he described as among the worst losses of his career — straight-set defeats to Sergi Bruguera in Monte Carlo and to Marcelo Filippini in Rome.

At least Bruguera and Filippini

were established players. Hue, 22, who is not even listed in the ATP tour media guide, played in his first tour event in Marseille as a qualifier in February, losing to Goran Prpic in the first round.

Hue, a left-hander with a two-handed backhand, said Lendl had been one of the players he admired most while growing up.

"The idea of playing him was magic," he said. "I just told myself not to waste the chance."

"I've had trouble eating the last three days because I was so nervous," he said. "I had a hard time believing I had qualified. Now to have beaten Lendl ... Lendl summed up his feelings after the match this way: 'I'm not very happy, that's a nice way of saying it.'"

But Lendl refused to characterize the loss as a sign that his competitive days are as good as over.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 28, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are somewhat nervous and restless this morning and seem vulnerable to all kinds of changes whether you like them or not. Be sure to keep your poise with whatever arises to test your patience and capabilities.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have many behind the scenes matters to which to attend and unless you do them with a smile you will find that they are difficult to perform.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you do go out in the world today make sure it is with the awareness that it is necessary to back up those you meet instead of being a source.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You probably will have to take a jaunt to meet on of varied background to yourself but present your best character and nature at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some pressing obligations to take care of but don't let them get you down or have a feeling of lacking as they must be attended to sometime.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Think about how you can rise above some hunches that are not good for you and consider what you had best do from the angle of good judgement.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) In conversation with others it will doubtless take much talk to

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 27, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: From the middle of the day on you will find that people are suspicious of you and your motives — as well as you of theirs so proceed with caution because dramatic and unexpected things can occur.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find it necessary to curb the enthusiasm of a friend who wants to act too impulsively where some joint but interesting new beginning is concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a day for you to think about how you can best advance whatever is of concern to you in outside vocational interests and to improve them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that a new course you have set for yourself needs to be approached with more awareness of all the various aspects that are important.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have it in your power now to see more clearly what is to be done if your usual obligations are to be handled in a better fashion.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Don't try to pressure a unique personality to go along with your ideas but just let them be known and that person will then carry the ball rightly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You certainly have a good day for getting activities successfully

finished by calendaring your time more sensibly and tonight be off with a charming associate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today is good during spare time to be off to whatever amusements bring you feelings of happiness while tonight finds you able to finish duties.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are ready for a confrontation at home but you only keep harmony away from your residence by such an attitude so be more cooperative.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to dash about and get much done in public which is all right if you wisely schedule your time efforts, tonight enjoy home pleasures.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't make any radical changes where money and property are concerned but consider how such can best be accomplished in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want some personal new outlets very badly and they can come in due time if you think up ways to gain them and not act to hastily to achieve them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get off alone and with your thoughts which can take a new and different slant today and make decisions for your future expression and success.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"I'm all for health-care reform. The first thing they should reform is the way hospitals take your temperature."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROGAC

FINEK

TIPPEC

TINKTE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PROVE FETID NIBBLE ORIGIN

Answer: The boxer's smooth line finally got him this — ROPED IN

THE Daily Crossword by Herman Surasky

ACROSS
1 Ready money
5 Bon voyage!
10 Political patronage
13 Years
15 Westlands
16 Concert
17 Silks and Sutherlands
19 Four-in-hand
20 Card holding
21 Schemer
22 Animal skin
23 Bridge seat
24 Accost: var.
25 Root ornament
30 Debtor's debt
31 Mathematician
32 U.S. tennis champion
35 Sea duck
38 NY town
39 Inval's woe
41 Ham it up
42 Dolphins' coach
43 Speech part
44 Hockey legend
45 Newsman
47 "Triste" (italics)
48 — down (italics)
51 Broadway hit
52 Enrhy
54 Municipalities
59 Mosier's philanthropist
61 Two singers
62 Tire part
63 Spanish hero
64 Rep. counterpart
65 Cautious
66 Fill up

DOWN
1 Officer: abbr.
2 Land measure
3 Leg bone
4 Atlas or Hercules
5 Loving Latin
6 Talk show host
7 Charged atoms
8 Blackboard need
9 Seagull innuities
10 Divisibly
11 Spy
12 Browning or Gray
14 Maine river
18 Pan
22 Penalties
24 Doll order words
25 Expences
27 Achievement
28 "Tress" — e.g.
29 Novelty
33 Palms
34 Admits
35 Perry's creator
37 Peruse
38 Cold northerly wind
40 Caruso or Fermi
42 Irish county
44 In the past
47 Worth
49 Like early TV
50 Play for time
51 Sounders
53 Draft classification
54 Cuzco native
56 Author Sagoroli
57 Point of view
59 The shakers
60 Dog tags

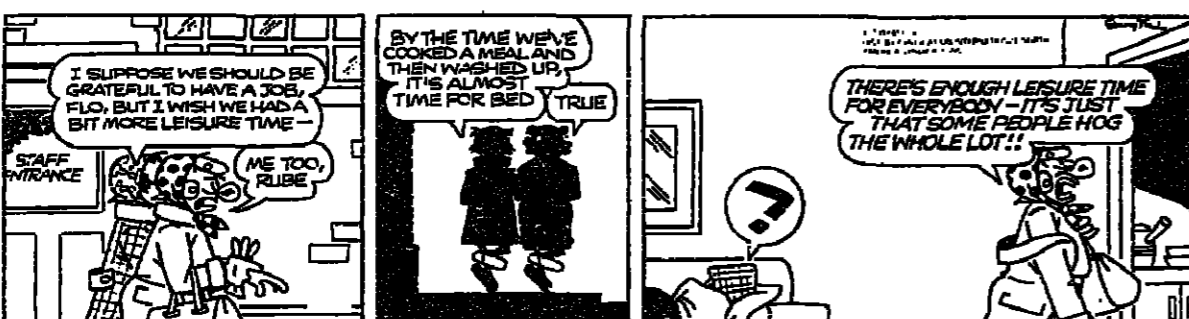
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: AMOR, MAIR, ACCOR, FODR, ELLER, SHIMMOSSA, SINAR, FEL, PANS, DETERS, TASSING, SCUBING, ABOOD, SMOAT, ROTO, SOON, CHAIR, RIRON, OVAL, RAGE, RIRON, SEBERRY, PLAGES, SAVE, ROM, BISHWA, FLOE, MAY, ADAS, SEATNSHIPS, RISE, SWINT, SENSE, ASRA, RATS, ENTER

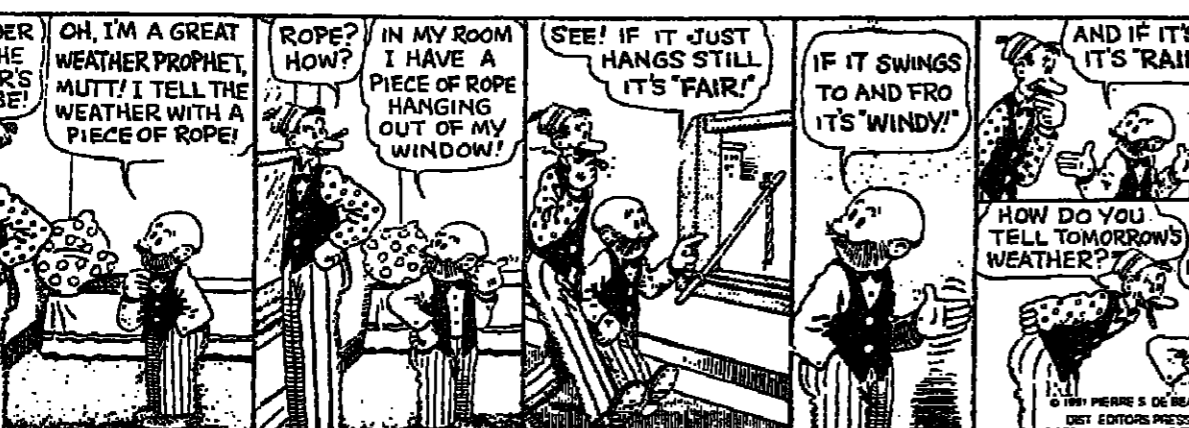
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Dollar hits record low against yen

TOKYO (R) — Uncertainty about the Clinton administration's stand on exchange rates drove the dollar to post-World War II low against the yen Wednesday, despite attempts by Japanese government to support the U.S. currency.

The dollar's troubles began during U.S. trading hours when the U.S. Treasury Department released a report on exchange rates that indicated speculation that the United States favours a stronger yen.

It has been falling virtually ever since.

After opening at 109.17, the dollar tumbled all the way to 108.63 before closing at 108.65, its lowest closing level since the World War II.

The Japanese government tried to support the dollar by selling its own currency for dollars on the open market and by trying to "talk up" the dollar.

Foreign exchange dealers said the Bank of Japan spent hundreds of millions of dollars in morning trading supporting the U.S. currency through repeated rounds of open market intervention.

Finance Minister Yoshio Hayashi said both the United States and Japan wanted stable foreign exchange rates reflecting economic fundamentals.

The U.S. Treasury Department document issued Tuesday suggested that a strong yen could counteract Japan's chronic trade surplus with the United States.

Tokyo stocks, however, survived the currency market turmoil.

Yugoslavia issues 5-million-dinar currency note

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav National Bank (NBY) issued a five million dinar note Wednesday, reflecting the depressed value of its national currency, Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

Currently the highest denomination in use is the 500,000 dinar note, worth \$1.25 on the black market, introduced several months ago when it was worth 666 at the official exchange rate.

Yugoslavia's economy is crippled by the devastating two-year war in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and its inflation rate — close to 20,000 per cent last year and still soaring — is the worst in the world.

Trying to salvage the dinar under conditions worsened by stifling U.N. sanctions against rump Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, the NBY early last month devalued it for the fifth time in 13 months.

But the rampant monthly inflation rate continued, touching 225.8 per cent in March with a further 114.1 per cent in April.

Yugoslavia's industrial output in the first two months this year dropped by 40.2 per cent compared with the same 1992 period and economists warn that soon it will be impossible to halt the currency's plunge.

The black market rate of exchange is practically doubling every second week. Early this month a dollar fetched 160,000 dinars and a month earlier 48,000.

Economists said the decision to issue a new note was also prompted by a severe shortage of paper and dye.

The thick wads of currency now needed to buy a 100 note also contributed to the shortage, NBY sources said, adding that even recycling of small denomination notes, rendered worthless by inflation, did not help.

Algeria repays \$500m, opposes rescheduling

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria repaid \$500 million of its foreign debt this week and reaffirmed its determination to avoid rescheduling an estimated \$25 million owed external creditors.

The central bank said the \$500 million credit was raised in 1985 and was repaid Tuesday, the date it was due, according to a statement carried by the official news agency APS.

Repayment was followed with

U.N. economist: 4-day work week may be answer to world's unemployment

NEW DELHI (R) — Will a 4-day work week help industrial nations curb growing unemployment and avoid layoffs? It's worth trying, says a top U.N. economist.

"Reduced working hours, innovative proposals for work sharing and redefining the very concept of work" are some things Western nations are considering, said Mahabub Ul Haq, head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

"Industrial nations may have to consider whether it is better for most people to work five days a week, in order to benefit some people on unemployment benefits, or whether it is better for all people to work, say, four days a week," Mr. Haq said while releasing the UNDP's Human Development Report for 1993.

The U.N. organisation is chro-

nizing the quality of employment around the world. The report deals with the quality of life and ranks countries on human development record — a yardstick combining life expectancy, educational level, availability of health care and basic purchasing power.

The United States is sixth after Japan, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden.

Mr. Haq, a former finance minister of Pakistan, said an alarming trend in developing countries indicates unemployment has been proceeding at about half the rate of the increase in the output of goods in the last three decades.

"Expanding unemployment benefits is no solution in a world without many jobs," he said. Developing nations are ex-

periencing double digit unemployment. They must create a billion new jobs this decade to absorb the growing reservoir of unemployed workers, the report said.

In Germany, from 1960 to 1967, total output of goods increased more than 2½ times, but employment fell by nine per cent.

In the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), which has 24 member nations, unemployment stayed above six per cent throughout the 1980s, reaching a peak of 6.9 per cent in 1991, which amounted to about 30 million unemployed people.

Unemployment in the European members of the OECD rose from three per cent in mid-1970s to about 10 per cent in 1992.

S. Africa tries to cash in on Middle East trade

CAIRO (R) — South Africa Foreign Minister P. W. Botha held talks in Cairo Tuesday in the latest stage of a campaign to deal directly with Middle East oil suppliers after years of isolation caused by apartheid.

Mr. Botha told Reuters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and touring the pyramids at Giza:

"Now that apartheid has gone,

the gates are wide open for us." Economists said South Africa was trying to profit from the gradual end to its racist policies by dealing directly with oil suppliers in the Middle East and seeking new markets for exports.

Industry sources say countries such as Egypt and Oman have sold South Africa crude oil for years despite a United Nations embargo. But the sales have taken place secretly through independent traders and Pretoria has had to pay a premium.

South Africa has also been unable to export goods to the Middle East to offset the huge cost of importing oil from the area, which economists estimate at anywhere from \$500 million to \$1 billion a year.

Mr. Botha would not comment directly on oil ties but he said a recent South African trade fair in the Gulf had yielded contracts worth \$225 million for South African firms.

Asked if Pretoria was seeking countertrade deals with its oil suppliers, he said: "I'm not that well-informed to give you a proper answer but what I do know is that oil is very close to cash."

Mr. Botha visited Oman and Qatar, two important oil producers in the Gulf, last month. Delegations from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia and

Jordan have been to South Africa.

South African businessmen visited Egypt and Gulf countries last year and South African banks have opened links with banks in Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain.

An industry source said South Africa was Egypt's second largest oil market after Israel and could account for up to 60,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Egypt's 250,000 b/d total exports.

Mr. Botha said South Africa was looking to promote trade in all areas, naming agriculture, technology transfer and industrial goods.

South African defence manufacturers are also interested in Gulf Arab states, practically the only major expanding arms market, and have exhibited at trade fairs there.

Oil industry analysts say South Africa's refining industry, which already has about 100,000 b/d capacity in excess of local needs, hopes to serve as an export base for refined products to African neighbours.

Pretoria has run down strategic oil stores estimated at up to 100 million barrels but analysts say the storage space could have some commercial use in stocking different grades to allow refiners greater flexibility.

Iran parliament bans kickbacks on foreign deals

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian parliament Tuesday banned government officials from receiving kickbacks in foreign deals, including arms purchases, and ordered them to hand over to the treasury and such money received since 1979.

Offending officials could also be fined an equal sum and jailed from two to five years under a bill passed by Majlis (parliament), Tehran Radio said.

Supporters of the bill said it was a necessary measure to stamp out a common form of corruption by officials who often made overpriced or unnecessary purchases to increase their takings at the expense of the public treasury.

No figure was offered in the Majlis debate of the total sum involved, but it could run very high considering that Iran has spent more than \$100 billion since its 1979 Islamic revolution.

With expansion of Iran's economic ties with other countries in recent years, this trend has become more widespread and blatant and has brought huge riches to some people," Jahan-e Eslam newspaper said Tuesday.

Some of deputies said Iran had nothing to gain by banning kickbacks which are normal practice in some international business circles.

"We must get the commission, but should build a mechanism so that it is channelled to the treasury. We should not let ourselves be cheated out of it by the foreigners," Salam newspaper, quoted deputy Hassan Mokhtari as saying.

The law, which must be ratified by the Guardian Council, names purchases by the armed forces along with other government agencies.

Iran treats most information about its arms purchases both during and after the 1980-88 war with Iraq as state secrets.

The law exempts from fine and jail any offender who had informed the senior authority in his department that he was taking a commission, provided he handed over the sum.

One recent case discussed in the press involved the Iranian ambassador in Germany Hossein Mousavian, who said he had received millions of dollars as "gifts" from German firms.

He said companies in Germany, Iran's biggest trading partner, offered the sums willingly to secure their trade.

The money was spent on public projects in Iran and to pay for the Iranian national soccer team's camp in Germany.

Mitterrand opposes full scale privatisations

PARIS (Agencies) — Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, citing France's national interests, expressed reservations Wednesday over the conservative government's plan to privatise 21 state-owned firms.

Presidential spokesman Jean Musitelli, speaking to reporters, said Mr. Mitterrand told the weekly cabinet meeting that "in the nation's interests" some firms should be kept in state hands.

Earlier Wednesday, the government announced a list of 21 state-controlled firms including Air France, automaker Renault, computer manufacturer Bull and oil company ELF Aquitaine that will be privatised in the coming months under the new conservative administration.

The list includes 12 firms or groups that the conservatives tapped to be privatised in 1986, the last time the right wing was in power. Plans to privatise the 12

fell through when the ruling conservatives were ousted from power in 1988 by the Socialists, who did not pursue privatisation.

The 12 are the insurance firms AGF, Gan and UAP Bull; electronics manufacturer Thomson; Banque Nationale de Paris; Credit Lyonnais; Banque Paribas; Societe Marseillaise de Credit; aluminium and packaging group Pechiney; the chemical and pharmaceutical group Rhone-Poulenc; and ELF Aquitaine.

The other nine are Air France; Renault; the aerospace firm Aerospatiale; the tobacco monopoly Seita; aircraft engine maker Snecma; steelmaker Usinor-Sacilor; the shipping line Compagnie Generale Maritime; and the insurance firms Caisse Centrale de Reassurances and Caisse Nationale de Prevoyance.

The legislation does not stipulate a limit on foreign holding of French companies.

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Central banker says EMS has collapsed

COPENHAGEN (R) — The European Monetary System (EMS) has effectively broken down by allowing some countries to win competitive advantages when devaluing their currencies, Danish central bank chief Erik Hoffmeyer said Tuesday.

"I have no reservations about saying that the currency cooperation has collapsed in the past nine months," Mr. Hoffmeyer said in a speech to a Danish business seminar.

Mr. Hoffmeyer, former chair-

man of the European Community (EC) central bank governors' committee, is the first senior monetary official to launch an open and forceful attack on competitive devaluations by some countries.

Britain and Italy pulled their currencies out of the EC exchange rate mechanism (ERM) last autumn, and Ireland, Spain and Portugal were forced to devalue within the mechanism as a speculative storm swept through money markets.

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TELEPHONE: 660170 / 660170			
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 26/05/1993			
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING	OPENING CLOSING
ARAB BANK	235,440	100.00	100.00
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	535,285	5.770	5.850
CHIEF AMMAN BANK	14,853	4.000	28.750
BANK OF JORDAN	115,493	4.400	4.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	60,949	2.040	2.000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	14,007	3.980	3.980
THE HOUSING BANK	46,482	2.000	2.000
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	7,450	3.720	3.720
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	18,000	5.000	5.000
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	17,985	3.300	3.310
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	130,021	6.180	6.180
BUSINESS BANK	5,968	5.050	5.070
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	68,511	3.700	3.800
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	6,447	4.150	4.100
PELLEPAPPA INVESTMENT BANK	210,888	2.530	2.510
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,200	2.000	2.000
GENERAL AMANIA INSURANCE	5,445	3.380	3.380
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	68,511	3.700	3.800
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	5,445	3.380	3.380
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	68,511	3.700	3.800
UNITED DISTRICT ELECTRICITY / ALBAT	13,818	5.850	5.780
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,000	2.000	2.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	3,945	0.650	0.630
JORDAN FIDELITY & SPA COMPLEX	42,837	0.340	0.340
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8,088	2.710	2.750
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	92,059	0.840	0.840
PERIA OYUNLUK & EQUIPMENT LEASING	11,254	1.770	1.830
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	11,254	1.770	1.830
MACHINERY REPAIR, RENTING & MAINTENANCE	11,254	1.770	1.830
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBAT	3,270	11.500	12.000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORD HOTELS	58,633	2.170	2.170
ATTACHED CONSTRUCTION & MANUFACTURING	25,000	21.500	21.500
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	402,387	2.380	2.410
JORDAN PROSPERITY RIGGS	700	33.580	35.000
THE ARAB POTASH	6,035	10.600	10.600
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	4,616	3.000	3.000
HOLLEN INDUSTRIES	66,769	7.600	7.650
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	16,000	10.000	10.000
THE JORDAN MORTGAGE FUNDS	1,000	0.000	0.000
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	112,045	0.970	0.970
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,200	2.000	2.000
JORDAN OIL	5,773	3.580	3.580
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	25,000	21.500	21.500
ARAB CHEMICAL DEFENDERS INDUSTRIES	8,611	3.190	3.190
SPINNING & WEAVING	13,480	3.450	3.400
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	11,882	0.530	0.520
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	213,139	19.300	19.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	127,027	10.350	10.300
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	24,603	3.460	3.470
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2,400	3.280	3.280
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	33,282	6.150	6.150
UNIVERSAL CENTRAL INDUSTRIES	32,498	9.600	9.600
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,400	4.760	4.800
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	7,159	3.200	3.210
UNIVERSAL CENTRAL INDUSTRIES	11,040	0.520	0.520
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATCH/JINCO	48,389	10.850	10.770
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	49,430	4.750	4.760
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	84,052	4.180	4.170
JORDAN CEMENT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	14,280	1.800	1.700
KANITES INVESTMENT	23,016	3.200	3.150
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	238,467	5.490	5.520
TOTAL 5,526,699			
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 100300			
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 233958			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.2613/18	Canadian dollar
	1.6270/80	Deutsche marks
	1.8230/40	Dutch guilders
	1.4539/49	Swiss francs
	33.45/49	Belgian francs
	5.4750/800	French francs
	1482/1485	Italian lire
	108.60/65	Japanese yen
	7.2900/3000	Swedish crowns
	6.8740/840	Norwegian crowns
	6.2250/350	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5470/80	
One ounce of gold	\$375.50/376.25	

Cinema		Cinema		Cinema		Cinema	
Tel.: 677420		Tel.: 699238		Tel.: 634144		Tel.: 675571	
CONCORD		PLAZA		PHILADELPHIA		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	
POLICE STORY "3"		SUMMER SCHOOL		PRETTY WOMAN		Today the Nabil Mashini Theatre hosts	
"SUPERCOP"						Al Fawaris Troupe acting in a play entitled:	
Shows: 12:30; 3:30; 6:15; 8:30; 10:30		Shows: 12:30; 3:15; 4:45; 6:30; 8:30; 10:30		Shows: 12:30; 3:30; 6:15; 8:30; 10:30		Death of Taybeh	
						By: Suheil Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash	
						Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155	
						AHLAN THEATRE	

Sihanouk says Khmer Rouge is now out of the picture

PHNOM PENH (R) — Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Wednesday the huge turnout of voters in U.N.-run national elections meant the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction could play no role in the future of Cambodia.

The prince told a visiting French parliamentary delegation the success of the polls was a historic rejection of the Khmer Rouge, who repudiated a 1991 peace agreement and told citizens they would be regarded as traitors if they cast ballots.

More than four million people, or 85 per cent of registered voters, had cast their ballots by Tuesday night, the third day of the six-day poll. U.N. organisers said.

"Remember what I say if you remember one thing from my meeting, this election is a historic defeat for the Khmer Rouge and they will be wiped out of history in the future," a member of the delegation quoted the prince as saying.

A palace spokesman confirmed Prince Sihanouk had abandoned his policy of national reconciliation, which would have given the Khmer Rouge, still a powerful military force, some role in a future government even though they had vowed to disrupt the

elections.

The Khmer Rouge put Cambodia through a reign of terror from 1975 through 1978 that killed a million people through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour.

The palace spokesman said it would be up to the government that emerges from the election to decide how to deal with the Khmer Rouge.

Voting ended Tuesday at fixed polling stations in towns and villages, but U.N. election teams were still travelling by boat, truck and aircraft to bring mobile voting booths to remote areas.

There were few and scattered incidents of violence Tuesday and Wednesday, despite Khmer Rouge threats that widespread violence would ruin the election.

"Even though we are very gratified and encouraged by this astonishing participation we will continue to exert vigilance and caution until the very end of the polling process," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt told reporters.

The Khmer Rouge had said it would refuse to participate in the election because the polls favoured its arch-enemies in the Phnom Penh government, which was created by the Vietnamese invaders who ousted the Khmer Rouge from power.

But among those flocking to the polls have been many Khmer Rouge soldiers, unarmed and with voter registration cards.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the Royalist Party FUNCINPEC, a French acronym for National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful And Cooperative Cambodia, are expected to win the lion's share of votes in the 20-party election.

Leaders of both parties have started making tentative suggestions they might form a coalition to write a constitution and form a government.

Followers of the radical Khmer Rouge are praying that the Royalist Party run by the son of Prince Sihanouk wins Cambodia's election to end a 13-year civil war, a well-placed Khmer Rouge army official said.

"After casting their votes the people are praying for the Sihanoukist party to win the election. Otherwise the war would continue," a Khmer Rouge captain told Reuters in this tiny jungle village near the Thai border Tuesday.

Khmer Rouge radio Wednesday vehemently denied that its soldiers had voted in the elections but did not refer to the activities of its followers and the tens of

thousands of people living in the regions under its control.

"The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK, Khmer Rouge) wishes to deny that any of its troops voted in Poi Pet or elsewhere," the radio said.

"The NADK...is vehemently opposed to the elections organised by UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) in a bid to decimate the Cambodian nation and people," it said.

But the Khmer Rouge captain said the Maoist faction is allowing its people to vote to ensure the Royalists win, mostly in the western towns of Banteay Meanchey, Sisophon, Battambang, as well as Preah Vihear and Siem Reap in the north-west.

"We will recognise the result of the election if the Sihanoukist party has genuine power in running the country," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

FUNCINPEC is led by Prince Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk's son.

"Only Prince Sihanouk can ensure the survival of the Cambodian nation," the captain said.

Meanwhile, the bodies of two Chinese peacekeepers killed while serving with the U.N. mission in Cambodia were flown home Wednesday.

Azerbaijan, Armenia accept Karabakh peace plan

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan and Armenia accepted a new peace initiative Wednesday for disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, where a five-year conflict between Armenian inhabitants and nominal Azeri rulers has claimed thousands of lives.

But Karabakh Armenian military leader Robert Kocharyan immediately poured cold water on the initiative worked out by Russia, the United States and Turkey.

"Karabakh is against it," he told local reporters. "It does not guarantee the security of our civilian population."

Azerbaijan's Turan News Agency said the Azeri government had signed the latest version of the agreement and handed it to the three powers' embassies. Armenia rejected an earlier version.

"Armenia will sign the tripartite agreement on solving the conflict with Azerbaijan," Armenia's presidential spokesman Aram Abramyan told local reporters in his capital, Yerevan. But parliament was still debating whether to approve the docu-

ment.

Karabakh, encircled by Azeri territory and in theory under Azeri control, has declared independence.

Armenia does not officially recognise Karabakh.

It says it has no part in the fighting but is sympathetic to the plight of Karabakh Armenians. But Armenians fight alongside their Karabakh kin and humanitarian aid for Karabakh goes through Armenia.

"Armenia expresses hope that the two sides directly involved in the fighting will give similar replies (to the peace initiative)," Mr. Abramyan added.

The sticking-point in the current plan, which aims to get the warring sides back to international peace talks after months of deadlock, has been how to deal with recent Armenian military advances in Azeri territory outside Karabakh.

Karabakh forces seized the narrow strip of Azeri land which separates Karabakh from Armenia last March, saying Azeri troops based in the mountains of Kelbadzhar district had been fir-

ing on Armenian positions on both sides.

The March advances brought a new area as big as Karabakh under Karabakh Armenian control and left a total of one-tenth of Azerbaijan in their hands.

Azerbaijan, smarting from the losses, wants Armenian troops out of Kelbadzhar before talks can resume.

Armenia's Moscow ambassador told Reuters last week his country had rejected the first version of the tripartite plan because it envisaged pulling out Armenian forces from Kelbadzhar and only leaving international observers in their place.

"We would prefer to see international peacekeeping troops there to guarantee the safety of our population," Felix Mamikonyan said. He said he did not believe the new initiative marked any real desire to move forward with peace talks.

The three foreign powers and the Transcaucasian sides met in Moscow 10 days ago to overcome Armenian resistance to the first plan. It was not immediately clear what kind of new agreement was

made on monitoring the Armenian pullout from Kelbadzhar.

Azerbaijan has since shown itself willing to cooperate with the Russian-U.S.-Turkish move. On Monday, Baku declared a unilateral ceasefire to prepare for the all-round Saturday ceasefire which is on provision of the international plan.

All previous ceasefire attempts have quickly collapsed.

A Western official in Paris said last week that the CSCE, which includes most European states, the United States and Canada, would send 600 peacekeepers to Nagorno-Karabakh if Armenians and Azeris agreed to the ceasefire.

If the truce holds, the next step would be to restart peace negotiations under the aegis of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which stalled last year.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said the first step would be informal Armenian-Azeri talks on June 6 in Geneva. These would be expanded on June 14-15 into formal peace negotiations in Rome.

Ghali bars press conference of Chinese dissident

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A Chinese student activist held a news conference on the street outside United Nations Headquarters after U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali forbade him to speak inside the building.

Shen Tong, a leader of the 1989 Democracy Movement in Tiananmen Square, told several hundred reporters who gathered to hear him Tuesday.

"I have been banned by my own government and that is why I am in exile. I'm very familiar with this but I would never expect I have to do this in New York."

The U.N. chief barred Mr. Shen from holding a press conference in the main U.N. complex under pressure from China, whose U.N. ambassador last week protested against his scheduled appearance at the U.N. Correspondents Association (UNCA) Club.

Mr. Shen was allowed to enter the U.N. complex but then security guards barred television crews and photographers so the news conference was held outside the building instead.

To make sure he would not speak inside, U.N. spokesman Joe Sills and his assistants guarded the door of the Press Club. "I am here to tell you that the secretary-general will not permit this to take place," Mr. Sills said.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright told reporters she had contacted Dr. Ghali and China's Ambassador Li Zhaoxing in an effort to get the decision reversed.

"We believe in freedom of speech and freedom of the press," she said. "We believe that this is a very unfortunate event and we will continue to look into it."

Dr. Ghali argued that it was inappropriate for the event to be held at U.N. Headquarters "in view of its apparent purpose as an act of political opposition to a member state of the United Nations." He said China "had protested the appearance of Mr. Shen at the United Nations."

He said in a statement that he was "unilaterally committed to the principle of free speech" but as chief administrative officer he had to "maintain the integrity of the U.N. Headquarters complex as a location dedicated primarily to diplomacy among member states."

In an attempt at a compromise, Dr. Ghali late last week offered



One of China's most prominent jailed dissidents Xu Wenli is reunited with his wife Kang Tong (left) and 20-year-old daughter Xu Jing (AFP photo)

to allow Mr. Shen to address reporters at a nearby U.N. annex.

The association's executive committee first accepted the new location "under strong protest." But it reversed its decision after members objected that a damaging precedent would be created.

China frees dissident

Meanwhile, China's "Special Prisoner 01" walked into freedom and an emotional reunion with his family Wednesday as Peking sought to protect its lucrative trade from human rights attacks in Washington.

Xu Wenli hugged his wife and daughter outside the home he had not seen for 12 years, ever since he was imprisoned as a key figure in the 1978-81 "Democracy Wall" Movement.

China released Mr. Xu on parole three years before his 15-year sentence was due to end.

"Xu was sentenced by the Peking Municipal Higher People's Court for illegally organising a clique to overthrow the government," the official Xinhua News Agency said.

"Parole was granted on account of his performance while in prison and in accordance with related provisions of the criminal law," the agency said.

Diplomats and analysts said Peking's action came in direct response to U.S. pressure on human rights.

Asked if he thought he had committed a crime, Mr. Xu said: "I can't have been guilty, because what I did was for my country and for my people."

"At the moment, I must think of my family members," he told reporters, looking moved and older than his 49 years.

Mr. Xu said his first priority was to do his duty as a son and give his parents' ashes a proper burial.

"My first effort must be put on this and on being together with my family," he said. He said he hoped the international media would leave him alone while he reexperienced life with his wife, Kang Tong, 45, and his daughter, Xu Jing, 20.

Mr. Xu said he had learned of his parole only a few hours before his release and that he was in good health.

He kissed his wife and hugged her tightly as he talked, clearly relishing his freedom.

Mr. Xu, who was kept in solitary confinement for most of his imprisonment, laughed and beamed as he looked around his neighbourhood and waved to neighbours.

China keeps pressure on Tibet

In a separate development, the streets of Lhasa were subdued and quiet Wednesday as Tibet's capital emerged from a blanket of heavy security after two days of anti-Chinese unrest, sources in the Himalayan region said.

"It is all pretty quiet," one young American visitor said.

"In fact, things are more quiet than normal. Usually there is music blaring on the street and people, but there is none of that now. It is definitely subdued."

Chinese police fired teargas at protesters in Lhasa Monday and Tuesday, determined to quell the most serious unrest in Tibet since pro-independence protests in March 1989 led to over a year of martial law.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, Tuesday deplored this week's violence and urged China to exercise restraint.

Travelers in Lhasa said police were still in evidence Wednesday but had largely given up their roof-top stakeouts and moved back to a more normal footing.

This week's protests, sparked by a nine-hour demonstration by up to 2,000 people Monday, began as a march against rising inflation but soon veered into expressions of anger over China's heavy-handed rule of Tibet, the travelers said.

On Tuesday, police again fired teargas at a much smaller group of protesters who attempted to gather near the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's holiest shrine.

Police authorities, who ban Western journalists from the area and are quick to stifle open signs of dissent, declined all comment on the situation Wednesday. A spokesman for the Tibet Foreign Affairs Travel Office said things were normal.



Some 5,000 demonstrators Wednesday block the entrance roads to the German parliament in Bonn (AFP photo)

Protesters seal entry to Bonn parliament

BONN (R) — About 5,000 young protesters sealed off the German parliament with a shoulder-to-shoulder blockade Wednesday in an angry demonstration against a planned vote to tighten Europe's most liberal asylum law.

Black-hooded demonstrators scuffled with cyclists and pedestrians who tried to pierce the jeering rows of protesters blocking entry into Bonn's normally tranquil government area.

Government employees and journalists, who had special permission to pass tight police barriers and barbed wire closer to parliament, could not get past the protesters.

About 4,000 police, many of them inside the wall of protesters,

were helpless in the face of the protesting crowds.

"What do you want us to do? Shoot our way in?" asked one officer when asked for help to enter the government zone.

"Now you know what it feels like to stand at a border and be refused entry," one protester yelled at a journalist who tried to get past them to watch deputies struggle their way to parliament for the day-long debate.

The bill, sure to pass after a majority of opposition Social Democrats (SPD) agreed to back it, will slam the door on the hundreds of thousands of foreigners expected to try to enter Germany from neighbouring countries.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's gov-

ernment says the right to political asylum, which opponents say Germany must offer to all to atone for its Nazi past, must be tightly restricted to deter migration waves now running at around 440,000 a year.

Some deputies arrived by helicopter while others took a special ferry boat from the right bank of the Rhine to a landing for tourist boats just outside the parliament building.

Gert Weisskirchen, a deputy from the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), was furious that protesters would not even let him through even though he agreed with them and planned to vote against the asylum crackdown.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan court restores assembly

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Supreme Court reinstated the National Assembly and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday in a landmark decision overturning President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dissolution of the parliament last month. "The National Assembly has been restored unconditionally," speaker of the National Assembly Gohar Ayub Khan said as he emerged from the crowded courtroom. "Long live Nawaz Sharif, long live Nawaz Sharif," shouted jubilant crowds outside the partially constructed court house in central Islamabad after the decision was announced at the end of 21 days of hearings. Mr. Sharif had filed a petition with the court after Ishaq Khan dismissed him on charges on nepotism, terrorising his political opponents and economic mismanagement on April 18.

Russia, Tajikistan sign defence pacts

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday signed a friendship and defence treaty with Tajikistan, whose Communist-style government is fighting an alliance of Islamist and democratic forces backed by Afghan groups. The treaty strengthens existing military agreements between the two countries and extends them to five years. Fighting between the Tajik government and opposition forces erupted last spring and grew into a war between clan and regional powers that left 20,000 dead and 600,000 homeless, according to government sources. The Tajik government took over last December from a short-lived alliance of democrats, intellectuals and Islamists, sending about 90,000 refugees across the border into Afghanistan where they received money and arms. Following a 30-minute signing ceremony, Mr. Yeltsin accused Afghanistan of "having a certain interest in some territories of Tajikistan." "Afghanistan is not indifferent to Tajikistan, we should jointly defend the border. Reliable protection will make it possible to cut off the supply of weapons, drugs and contraband," he said.

Vitamin campaign curbs Cuba epidemic

GENEVA (AP) — A costly campaign to provide vitamins to all Cubans has helped curb a mysterious epidemic that has afflicted thousands with vision problems, a World Health Organization official said Tuesday. Dr. Bjorn Thylefors, head of WHO's unit to prevent blindness, said experts have not determined the cause of the epidemic, first reported in western Cuba last year. He said doctors should better understand the ailment within a month. The outbreak of optical neuritis has dimmed the vision of about 20,000 Cubans, mainly men, he said. A related malady has affected 6,000 other people, mostly women, with other symptoms, like prickly, burning sensations in the arms and legs. Dr. Thylefors could not explain why men and women were affected differently. The government has responded with a \$17 million campaign to distribute Vitamins B-Complex to Cuba's 10.8 million people.

Officials: Abkhazians face 'extermination'

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Georgia's newly appointed defence minister warned Tuesday that the fledgling republic's 100,000-strong Abkhazian minority faces "extermination" if it continues its separatist fight for independence. Georgy Karkarashvili, 26, spoke to reporters for the first time since his appointment two weeks ago by President Eduard Shevardnadze. "It is inevitable that if the war between Georgians and Abkhazians continues, they will be exterminated entirely," he said. Mr. Karkarashvili, asked to clarify similar remarks he made last year on state television, said: "I am not threatening anyone with extermination — but it will be a reality if the Abkhazians follow extremist policies." Fighting in Abkhazia has claimed more than 1,000 lives since it flared in August 1992. Abkhazia is a tiny autonomous region of northwest Georgia nestled between the high Caucasus Mountains that form a national border with Russia and the Black Sea rivers.

Miyazawa approval rate is 21% — poll

TOKYO (R) — Only one in five Japanese backs Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government, according to a newspaper poll published Wednesday. The daily Tokyo Shimbun said the cabinet rated just 21.9 per cent support in a nationwide poll taken last weekend. This was only slightly better than the 20.4 per cent backing found in a previous survey in March, shortly after the arrest of a top ruling party figure on massive tax evasion charges. Some 70 per cent of voters questioned replied that they did not support the current cabinet. The poll covered 1,990 men and women over 20.

U.S. condemns Guatemala leader's moves

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration Tuesday condemned the suspension of democratic rule in Guatemala and tried to persuade Guatemalan authorities to reverse their decision. "This illegitimate course of action threatens to place Guatemala outside the democratic community of nations," a White House statement said.

COLUMN

Man charged with trespassing at Michael Jackson estate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A transient was charged with trespassing on Michael Jackson's family estate. Evered McCrimmon, 33, was charged with trespassing Monday. If convicted, he would face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Police arrested McCrimmon on May 1 as he was trying to climb the front gate of the pop star's home in suburban Encino, said deputy city attorney Laura Van Eyk. Officers were flagged down by a motorist who spotted McCrimmon. Earlier that day, a security guard had detained McCrimmon twice inside the compound and escorted him off the property. Ms. Van Eyk said. She said she didn't know whether anyone was inside the home at the time. McCrimmon didn't say why he was trying to get into the compound or indicate that he knew it was owned by Jackson, Ms. Van Eyk said. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Charges dropped against Cheyenne Brando

PAPEETE, Polynesia (R) — A judge in French Polynesia has decided to drop charges against Marlon Brando's daughter Cheyenne for complicity in the killing of Dag Drollet, her companion and father of her child. Instructing magistrate Jean-Bernard Taliercio said in his ruling that three years of investigation had failed to uncover proof of Cheyenne's complicity in Drollet's shooting death at Marlon Brando's Los Angeles home in 1990. In 1991 a Los Angeles court jailed her half-brother Christian Brando for 10 years for shooting Drollet in Brando's Beverly Hills estate after he heard Cheyenne, then four months pregnant, complain of having been beaten by her lover. Cheyenne, 23, whose mother is Tahitian, returned to the French Polynesian capital Papeete after the shooting and could not be extradited to the United States because she holds French citizenship and France does not extradite its own nationals. A lawyer for Drollet's family immediately appealed against Judge Taliercio's ruling. Since the death of Drollet, Cheyenne has suffered from severe depression and has twice attempted suicide.

Japan firm ponders sending Mickey Mouse to sea

TOKYO (R) — Mickey Mouse and his landlubber Disney pals may soon discover life on the ocean waves if a Japanese company approves a new theme park project. Oriental Land, operator of Tokyo Disneyland, is considering plans to build a "seven seas" park next to its current Disneyland site, a company spokesman said. The proposed new park is expected to feature attractions based on sea themes. It will occupy 32 hectares (80 acres), and cost about 200 billion yen (\$1.80 billion), he said. Oriental Land is discussing the project with its business partner, U.S.-based Walt Disney Inc. but details of the park have not been decided, the spokesman said. Japanese news reports said Oriental Land had decided to press ahead with the project, aimed at boosting flagging attendance figures, after posting its first profit decline in six years.

Rock Jagger's book reveals affairs

NEW YORK (AP) — If a new book is to be believed, Mick Jagger's list of sexual conquests reads like a who's who of popular music, with Rudolf Nureyev, Princess Margaret, and Andy Warhol thrown in for good measure. Eric Clapton, David Bowie, Madonna and Carly Simon are among the stars who had flings with the lead singer of the Rolling Stones. Christopher Andersen says in Jagger Unauthorized, Jagger would have no comment, said Fran Curtis, a spokeswoman for the singer who had earlier said there would be a statement. "Since he hasn't seen the book, it doesn't make any sense," she said. "You know, the publisher wouldn't give us a book." The 49-year-old rocker has spent the last 16 years with model Jerry Hall, the mother of three of his children. In one of the book's more sensational tidbits, Andersen claims Jagger and Clapton were "reportedly" discovered in bed together in the late 1960s. "It was a very narcissistic scene, very ambivalent sexually," says John Dunbar, the former husband of Marianne Faithfull, one of Jagger's first loves. "Bisexuality and androgyny are not only accepted, but they are encouraged."